SUNDAY
February 8, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
34 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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ICC T20 WORLD CUP

Suryakumar swings it India's way

The skipper's stroke-filled innings revives the host and propels it to a match-winning total against USA

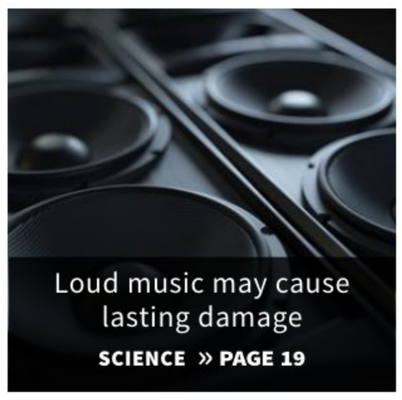
SPORT » PAGE 14

SIR puts voters from orphanages in a fix

NEWS » PAGE 12

Araghchi: the diplomat on a tightrope

PROFILES » PAGE 21



Loud music may cause lasting damage

SCIENCE » PAGE 19

NEARBY

British-era military outpost returns to life

BENGALURU
A forgotten British-era military outpost inside an Indian Army campus that once stood along the old Bengaluru–Chennai route has been brought back to life after decades of neglect.
» PAGE 2

Bill on menstrual leave put on the back burner

BENGALURU
The State government's plans on ushering in the Karnataka Women Well Being Leave Bill, 2025 seems to have been put on the back burner for the time being amid opposition from several quarters.» PAGE 8

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES J2 & 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

India, U.S. unveil framework for deal

- Both countries commit to provide each other preferential market access
- India intends to buy U.S. products worth $500 billion over the next five years
- Framework reflects trust and dynamism of partnership; will generate jobs: Modi

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India will remove or reduce tariffs on all industrial goods and a "wide range" of agricultural goods imported from the United States, according to the joint statement issued by the two countries on Saturday morning.

In return, the U.S. will reduce its tariffs on Indian imports to 18% from the existing 50% by amending the relevant executive order, the statement said. These commitments are part of the framework the two countries have worked out in an interim agreement on trade.

Notably, the joint statement did not include any mention of India's imports of Russian oil. However, U.S. President Donald Trump separately signed an amendment to an executive order – effective from Saturday – that removed the additional 25% tariff on imports from India, which had been imposed in August 2025 as a 'penalty' for India's import of Russian oil.

Deal diary

India and the U.S., in a joint statement on Saturday, announced that the two countries have worked out the framework for an interim agreement on trade

- The U.S. has already removed 25% tariffs; remaining 25% will be lowered **to 18%** 'next week'
- India to **reduce/remove** tariffs for U.S. goods only after a formal deal is signed, likely in March
- Sensitive **agricultural items and dairy** kept out of the deal
- Both countries can modify their commitments if one of them **changes the agreed-upon tariffs**
- Both countries agreed to continue **working towards** a larger Bilateral Trade Agreement

Finer details: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal speaking about the details of the deal to presspersons in New Delhi. PTI

Phased implementation

Speaking to presspersons on Saturday, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said that the executive order that would reduce the remaining 25% reciprocal tariff to 18% is expected next week. Earlier, he had said that India will be able to reduce or remove its tariffs on American goods only after the formal interim agreement is signed, which he said is expected to happen in mid-March.

"This framework reflects the growing depth, trust and dynamism of our partnership," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on X. "It strengthens 'Make in India' by opening new opportunities for India's hard-working farmers, entrepreneurs, MSMEs, StartUp innovators, fishermen and more. It will generate large-scale employment for women and youngsters."

"India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains, red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products," the joint statement said.

"The United States and India commit to provide each other preferential market access in sectors of respective interest on a sustained basis," the statement said. "The United States and India will establish rules of origin that ensure that the benefits of the Agreement accrue predominantly to the United States and India."

"India intends to purchase $500 billion of U.S. energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal over the next 5 years," it said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
SKM ANNOUNCES PROTEST
» PAGE 11

Deal has no item that can hurt farmers: Goyal

NEW DELHI
The interim agreement between India and the U.S. will not include any item that will hurt Indian farmers, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said. He said there are several areas where farmers and MSMEs received duty-free entry into the U.S. market. » PAGE 11

Govt. surrendered before the U.S., says Congress

NEW DELHI
The Congress party on Saturday targeted the Narendra Modi government over the joint statement on the interim trade agreement framework with the United States, saying the Union government had surrendered before the U.S. » PAGE 11

No official word yet on Metro fare rollback

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as two BJP leaders claimed that the Centre had withheld the 5% hike in Metro fares following their intervention, there was till late on Saturday no official communication on the rollback. The revised fares were to come into effect from February 9.

While BJP MP Tejaswi Surya and later Leader of Opposition R. Ashok claimed that they had spoken to Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar and he, in turn, had instructed that the proposed hike to be kept on hold, there was no communication to BMRCL in this regard.

A BMRCL official said that they can decide only on receiving official communication, and they had not received any.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 3

SRI SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Water Resources Department
Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE FOR
BENNEHALLI FLOOD CONTROL WORKS
AND INAUGURATION, BHOOMIPOOJA PROGRAMME OF VARIOUS WORKS
IN NAVALGUND VIDHANA SABHA CONSTITUENCY

SRI D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Date: 08-02-2026 | Time: 3:00 PM
Venue: Shiraguppi, Hubblli Taluk, Dharward District

Laying of Foundation Stone
SRI SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

In the August Presence of
SRI BASAVARAJ S HORATTI
Hon'ble Chairman
Karnataka Legislative Council

SRI D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Water Resources, Bengaluru City Development and In-charge of Bengaluru City District, Government of Karnataka

SRI PRALHAD JOSHI
Hon'ble Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, New Delhi

In the Respectful Presence of
SRI SANTOSH S.LAD
Hob'ble Minister for Labour and Dharward District In-charge

SRI KRISHNA BYREGOWDA
Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Hassan District In-charge

SRI H.K.PATIL
Hon'ble Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Gadag District In-charge

Guest of Honor
SRI BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
Hon'ble Former Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka and MP, Haveri

Special Guests
SRI ABBAYYA PRASAD
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka Slum Development Board and Hon'ble MLA, Hubballi - Dharward (East)

SRI SALEEM AHMED
Hon'ble Government Chief Whip
Karnataka Legislative Council

Presided by
SRI N.H. KONAREDDY
Hon'ble MLA, Navalgund

All Dharward and Gadag District Hon'ble Ministers, MP's MLA's and MLC's and Chairmen of Commissionerate and all Corporation, Boards Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Members are cordially invited

Presence of Superiority
DR. SHALINI RAJNEESH, I.A.S.
Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

SRI GAURAV GUPTA, I.A.S.
Addl Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

Welcomed gracefully by
SRI KRISHNAMURTHY B. KULKARNI, K.A.S.
Hon'ble Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Karnataka

SRI RAJESH AMMINABHAVI, K.A.S.
Hon'ble Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited

WATER IS THE FORCE OF LIFE
WATER IS THE PRECIOUS WEALTH
SAVE WATER
PROTECT THE WATER

M BG-BGE

Journeys begin: A temporary TSRTC bus stand set up at Medaram village to manage the steady influx of devotees arriving for darshan during Sammakka-Saralamma Maha Jatara.

Gathering of faith: Devotees from different parts of the country gather at Medaram village as the festival draws lakhs to the forest shrine.

State salute: Mulugu Superintendent of Police Sudhir R. Kekan, along with other officials, fires a ceremonial round into the air at Chilakalagutta ahead of the arrival of Sammakka.

Sacred waters: Pilgrims take a holy bath in the Jampanna Vagu as temporary tents line the riverbanks, accommodating devotees who stay through the days of the Sammakka-Saralamma Maha Jatara.

Medaram and the rhythms of devotion

The Sammakka-Saralamma Maha Jatara held in Medaram, a small forest village in Telangana, draws crores of devotees who seek to honour the forest goddesses

Nagara Gopal
nagara.gopal@thehindu.co.in

The Sammakka-Saralamma Maha Jatara, popularly known as Medaram Jatara, is regarded as Asia's largest tribal congregation. This extraordinary biennial festival takes place in Medaram, a small forest village nestled deep within the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary in the Mulugu district of Telangana. Rooted in ancient Koya tribal traditions, the Jatara honours the forest goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma, commemorating their valour and sacrifice.

Recognised as a State festival in 1998, the Medaram Jatara has grown from a modest tribal observance into one of the world's most remarkable spiritual gatherings. During the festival, the otherwise quiet village transforms into a vast spiritual arena, drawing crores of devotees, tribal and non-tribal alike, from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and neighbouring regions. Pilgrims gather to seek the blessings of Sammakka and Saralamma.

The festivities begin with the arrival of Saralamma, who is ceremoniously brought from Kannepally village, about 6 km from the Medaram shrine, by Koya tribal priests. Her procession crosses the sacred Jampannavagu rivulet before reaching her "*gadde*" (holy platform) on the first day of the four-day Maha Jatara. The rituals commence on Magha Suddha Pournami, a full-moon day that is considered auspicious.

Ahead of Saralamma's arrival, the deities Pagididdaraju and Govindaraju are installed on their respective platforms. Govindaraju arrives from Kondai, while Pagididdaraju is brought from Ponugonda, located about 80 km from Medaram in Mahabubabad district.

The Jatara reaches its spiritual peak with the arrival of Sammakka from Chilakalagutta, symbolically represented in a revered vermilion casket. Her arrival marks the most sacred phase of the celebrations.

Traditionally, the District Superintendent of Police conducts a ceremonial welcome in the presence of officials and public representatives by firing rounds into the air using an AK-47 rifle, an age-old gesture signifying the State's formal welcome to the tribal goddess.

A multi-layered security arrangement ensures the smooth movement of the processions. Thousands of tribal devotees follow in deep reverence, some dancing, others in a trance, moving to the rhythmic beats of traditional drums.

According to local legend, Meda Raju, the erstwhile ruler of the region, once discovered an infant girl in the forest, guarded by wild animals. Enchanted by the sight, he adopted the child, named her Sammakka, and raised her alongside his daughter Nagulamma. In time, both were married to Pagididdaraju.

Sammakka, her consort Pagididdaraju, their son Jampanna, and daughter Saralamma are believed to have been martyred in a fierce battle against the Kakatiya rulers.

Ritual order: The four-day festival takes shape with the arrival of Saralamma, Govindaraju and Pagididdaraju at the Medaram tribal shrine, ahead of the arrival of Sammakka.

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELUGU
TULU
URDU
ADVOCATE
BUSINESS
DEFENCE
DOCTOR
ENGINEER
FINANCE/ BANKING
GOVERNMENT/ QUASI-GOVERNMENT
IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

BEAUTIFUL, FAMILY–ORIENTED architect 27, 166cm, affluent, open–minded S. Indian business family. Seeking accomplished, compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WhatsApp 9345634365

DELHI–BASED BANIYA girl, 34, 5'7", Fair, USA/Harvard Masters, MNC employed, Seeks welleducated Groom. Ph: 9811278555

PILLAI/MUDALIYAR GROOM WANTED for Bride 31, 5'6"Architect. Well–to–do family. Equal caste no bar. Chennai–based only–9962406688

LOOKING FOR a boy for a 26–year–old girl, practising advocate in Mumbai, born to a Tamil father and a Muslim mother. Please call or text on +91 98675 31507.

THE HINDU
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DIVORCEE

CHEERFUL, ATTRACTIVE 32, well–educated (MS) US–based professional. Willing to relocate. Seeks responsible, compatible groom. Religion & community no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

VANNIYAR, 30 Ayilyam, Employed in Bank, Leagally Divorced, No Issues. Groom needed from Tanjore, Kumbakonam or Chennai area only. 9840961251

MUDHALIYAR, 35, Sathayam, Divorced, No Issue, Bank employee's daughter. Suitable Groom Needed. 9444406770

DKV, 29, Divorced, Female MD Radiologist, chennai 9047119910

DOCTOR

30 Years/ 163 cm/ Doctor/ Christian Bride/ Affluent/ Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom, Contact:9940571018

MBBS MD Dr Marathi Brahmin 37/ 165cm divorced issueless girl from Indore looking for educated upper caste issueless groom. Contact 9981809490

HINDU, CHENNAI Based Bride, CNB, 25 years MBBS, Pursuing (MS) ENT, Seeks Doctor Groom . Ct: 9677199925

Hindu Nadar 25/165 Thiruvathirai MDGM 1 Year/ Govt UG/PG in Chennai/Tirunelveli origin seek Nadar PG Dr Contact : 7200043060

Fair, Cultured, Good Looking, Slim, Doctor Girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist, Chennai based doctor family Father Keralite Nair Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for Doctor groom or Engineer from respectable family.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

Bride doing MSOG 3rd year, seeks Bride Groom PG MD or MS OR MCH. Contact: 9443331986.

HINDU NADAR Girl 33yrs, MBBS, M.S Ophthamology Vitreo - Retina Surgeon Doctor only. 9840038499/ 9487928218

ENGINEER

CHRISTIAN NADAR Girls BE, MS,Fair 27, Seeks Suitable Engineer,Wish to Go to Canada. Ct : 73586 38363

Mudaliar / Vanniar 31Y/165cm Doctor MBBS, fellowship in Diabetology seeks Engineer Grooms. Ph: 94444 54188

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

HINDU NADAR 26 yrs, 168 cm, Civil Judge Seeks Bridegroom Below 30 yrs from Same Profession / Group I / Group II Officer in Tamilnadu Only. Ct.9710209761 , 9840425972

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Required Civil Servant / Delhi based renowned professional or leading businessman for IAS Officer 36 yrs. tall, beautiful, mutually divorced, North Indian, Hindu issueless girl from well-settled business family. Whatsapp biodata 9056422022.

MALAYALAM

EZHUTHACHAN GIRL from Ottapalam 30, Ph.D Molecular Biology from prestigious US university, studied & worked in US, now moved to India seeks well educated, professionally established groom (30–35) settled in India & supportive of her career. Girls Parents Respectable, well educated, progressive ,worked abroad as NRIs, now settled in Palakkad, Kerala. Send biodata & photograph via WhatsApp to 7907133197/ 9741600790.

✔ **HINDU NAIR Girl, Vilakkithala–27yrs, B.Com, CMA, 168cms, Star: Aswathy, Native Trichur, Family settled at Trivandrum, Currently at Chennai, Pleasant Appearance, Belong to an upper middle–class family, Parents Rtd Govt Officials, seeking a suitable alliance from respectable families, Ct: 9444628290, Email: surendramadav90@gmail.com**

NAIR GIRL, 25/152, B.E., MBA, central govt job (contractual), Chennai seeks suitable Nair/Menon boy. Interested may contact at pnckels@gmail.com

ALLIANCE INVITED for 28 yrs, 155 cms height, Brahmin, Atreya gothram girl (MBBS) Ernakulam. 9847625806.

MBA / CA / ICWA

✔ **ALLIANCE FOR** a US citizen beautiful, 34 years, 163cm, fair, LLB+ MBA from US Ivy Univs., Working in Dept. of Justice, Belongs to Doctors family. Looking for a Professionally Qualified Groom & Good Family background. Contact: Dr Bansal, 9652078021/vsb1955@gmail.com

NRI

GROOM WANTED - Nair girl, 51, M.Sc, never married, US Citizen, well employed Chicago. US residents only, Caste No Bar. Contact : 9895824803

✔ **41 Years/RC** / Tamil/ US Scientist seek US Single Groom Contact: 9884079338.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39 /162cm, working with UN, well–settled family. Well–educated NRI groom preferred. Contact: 9650638095/ 9444852650

CHRISTIAN, Coimbatore - 30 Yrs/ 163cm, M.S., Business, Well settled - Rich and Affluent, Wanted Christian Groom. CT: 9488184227

CHRISTIAN, 26, born-again, rich affluent, ACCA, NRI, 30 crores. PH: 8138900312

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM Girl 38, Engineer, slim, seeks qualified, employed, unmarried Tamil Groom. 9444235779**

CHRISTIAN CSI , Very Fair , Beautiful, MS Arch , 30 y. Alliance invited from Fair, Handsome, Height min 5Ft and 9 Inches ,Well settled , Good Family Background. Ct: 9884067923

RC, CHRISTIAN, MBBS MD (Anaesthesiology), Reputed School, College, 27 yrs, Fair, God Fearing, Educated Family, in Chennai, Seeks Doctors. WhatsApp Profile – 7550065082 Mail ID: mikdm14@gmail.com

ARCHITECT FAIR Girl, 29 years, well settled and doing free-lancing, Mudaliar, residing in White Town, Puducherry, seeks for a good looking bride groom from decent family, well settled background, age between 30 to 32 years, Salary : 15 LPA & above, must be Roman Catholic in Mudaliar / any forward caste. Cell : 9842320716

CHRISTIAN NADAR 165cm / 28 yrs Advocate in Chennai, also pursuing CA Prefer Doctor. Contact–9444944609

CHRISTIAN, 26, UK, Medical, 50 lakhs, VVIP. PH: 8137001255

MUSLIM, 28, Private, NRI, 35 lakhs. PH: 8138900312

TAMIL MUSLIM Bride 31/159cm. MCA., AVP – Tech Lead, US bank, BLR, 30LPA well-settled family, Seeks Tamil speaking never married groom, similar background. Ct 90805 01299

BORN AGAIN Canadian Citizen Bride 29/153cm is looking for God Fearing, Family Oriented, Canadian or American Citizen. Age 30–35, Professional, have Biblical values and Faith. Email Profile and Photo to rvjplanning@gmail.com Call: 96771 81606

Muslim (kula) 31/163, PhD, NRI Abu Dhab seeks groom Professional and religious (no shirk and bidah) 9500146962/ safanet@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN/UNMARRIED/1991/ 160/ BDS+MPH. Ct:9042331000

Tamil Muslim, Dentist, 27 Years, 160 cm, affluent Family, seeks suitable Groom. Contact: 7867979904

ROMAN CATHOLIC Nadar 23/167 B.Arch, working as Junior Modular Designer in Coimbatore Salary Rs. 300000 PA Seeks suitable Boy with O Negative Blood Group. 9442162159.

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

CHRISTIAN, ROMAN Catholic, Kamma Naidu, MBBS, 26Yrs, 166 cms, Well off Family, Chennai. Preferred Groom: Professional / Business Family . Ct: 9840032401

CATHOLIC VELLALAR 33/171, MBBS, MPH Step 1 passed in student visa, USA Seeks groom from USA. 9150153743

30 CSI Christian Doctor Seeks Doctor /Bank /Class 1 Officer. Contact 9894172123

HINDU,SC(AD), M Tech, 24, Parent (Doctor–Engineer) seeks Doctor/Engineer/employed– Govt/Abroad–Groom with good family value, Ct:9445530460

VANIYAKULA KSHATRIYA / Ayilam/ 26 / 5' / B.Arch/ MS Ireland / Fair / Educated Bride's Parents seek well qualified US/ Europe settled groom with a good family background. Hindu same caste, Mudaliyar,Pillai,Yadava, Mukkulathoor,Chettiar and other equivalent Preferably. Whatsapp: 99403 72423/ +9194447 20315

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 26yrs, MBBS, MS, Very big Industrial background, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 40 / 163cm BE MBA Phd Madurai seeks well Qualified, Employed Groom. Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR, B.Tech M.S, 26 years, 167 cms, and employed in U.S. Fair and beautiful. We seek U.S employed groom (1995 to 1999 born) for our daughter and we are from Chennai. Kindly contact 8105586766 or cgrajkumar@rediffmail.com.

TAMIL

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
SEER KARUNEEGAR (Veg)
Age 28 years good looking bright Bride Unmarried MS (IT) Software Engineer & UiUx Designer USA / New York City is looking for Suitable Unmarried Bride Groom (Veg) Doctor / Engineer Working in USA base from South India. Caste no bar.
Ct : 9486171087 / 9443161587 / 9500883162

WELL EDUCATED, 37, Divorcee Seeks Compatible Groom. Caste No Bar. Call / WA 9489695984.

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 34/165 Mirugasim Raghu Lagnam, PG (HR, MNC, Hyderabad) Seeks MS, M.Tech Groom 9176780777

WELL SETTLED Doctor, 40 yrs, Divorcee without child, Hindu, BC seeks compatible professional Groom. CNB. Contact:8056868090

HINDU, 29, Pillai, ME, Private, 50 lakhs.PH: 8138900557

HINDU, VISHWAKARMA, 25, ME, 50 lakhs, Canada, VIP. PH: 8138009235

HINDU, 29, Divorced, caste no bar, 50 lakhs, MD, Doctor. PH: 8138900412

NAIDU GIRL 29/168, Thiruvathira, M.Tech, working in Bangalore, seeks suitable alliance from well educated and employed grooms. Basically from Tirunelveli. 9400854480

PILLAI PSYCHOLOGIST 26/174 kettai, Slim Fair M.phill Clinical Psychology seeks Good looking Well Qualified Groom Subset No Bar Ct 9840194246

TAMIL

Groom Wanted
Ezhuthachan + Iyengar **GIRL** 167 cm, from Bangalore 29, **Masters & Undergraduate from prestigious US university**, studied & worked in US, moved to India & Working in Bangalore, **seeks well educated, professionally established groom (30-35)** settled in India or abroad & supportive of her career. Girl's family Respectable, well educated, progressive, worked in technology sector – settled in Bangalore.
Send biodata & photograph via WhatsApp to **9886128948**.
Email: **kjayak@gmail.com**

Seeking a Bangalore settled well Educated Groom from a Decent Family for 28 Years 5.3 height B.com MBA (SC) Tamil Girl Working as Sr. Asso Contact: 9886429482

28 Years/ 165cm/ Engineer/ Hindu/ Mudaliar/ Seeks Groom Contact: 9940383553.

TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 25 yrs, BE, MBA, Running own Transport in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

GAVARA NAIDU, 32, B.Tech (Hons) DLL & AL Star Ashwini, Group II officer Revenue Dept, Only child, upper middle class, Father Ex–CRPF seeks Civil service Group I/ II groom from good family background. 9003450802

GROOM WANTED Kamma Naidu, 28yrs, MBBS, MS, Very Elite business family Contact: 6385293227

GROOM WANTED Kamma Naidu, 29yrs, B.Tech, Elite Industrial background in Chennai Contact: 6385293227

TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 35yrs, MBBS, MS, Running own Hospitals in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

HINDU / NAIDU 91 born Dr. Girl MBBS, MD Simham / Magam seeks MD, MS, MCH boy, any Naidu / any Tamil BC/MBC. Ct Parents: 94446 73311

NAIDU, 24/166, Beautiful, MBBS, OWN CHAIN OF DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS,5000000.PA, CNB, 9043991629,9043987029

URDU

SMU 1993 Born bride/167 MBBS, MD, Chennai. Seeks Doctor groom from good family. Whatsapp/Ct:9585547701

URDU

SMU 1991 Born/170cms Well–Settled MD Doctor from Chennai. Seeking Alliance from Doctors, Engineers from Well–Settled Family Ct: 9444551651

SUNNI MUSLIM, Never married, 41/ 165cm, Tall, MS, PhD, MBA (all degrees from the USA), senior pharma AI executive, well settled in the US. Seeks sunni muslim Groom preferably never married or widowed/divorced with no kids, 41–50yrs old, well educated & well settled in the US. Ct:9840270993/ Email.riazur12@gmail.com

SMU 1996 born Bride 163 MBBS-2022 Vizag seeks Groom (Doc/Engr/Profsnl) Ph: 9291328926 (Bride's Grandpa).

32 Years/ 163 cm/ Doctor/ Divorced/ Muslim/ Affluent/ Seeks Groom, Contact: 9940570609.

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

ARYA VYSHYA,AGE–44,HT–177CM, work Mumbai–MNC, Good Salary, prop. chennai, 9841551772

HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL, 36, 188cm, well–spoken, from cultured S. Indian family. Seeking well–educated, compatible bride. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

CHENNAI BUSINESSMAN 54Yr Seeks Companion Educated Unmarried,Divorce, Widow(No Kids) Age 30–40Yr 9444380861

THEVAR. 34/182. B. Arch.(NIT,Trichy) & M. Des.(NID,Ahmedabad). From an affluent family. Owns a furniture design studio at Auroville. Seeks a bride from a decent & educated family. CNB. Ct: 9361864646, 8826238299.

Age 54 Male, Govt Job,Need issueless business Minded partner widows, Divorcees welcome Ph: 9445128949

36 YRS, B.Tech mgr govt Bank salary 1.5 LPM owning properties in Ch, Seeking alliances CNB. 9940507235

DIVORCEE

AD/42 DIVORCEE Fair MS Engineering (PhD in US) 12 Lac/PerAnnum. Needs Employed Bride / CNB.Ct: 7358485802

SINCERE, ACTIVE 50, 173cm, successful business owner, widower, responsible father (2 independent sons, 21+).Seeks compatible bride. Religion /CNB. Call / WA 93456 34365

ENGINEER

Vanniyar 31/188 BE Germany 4.5LPM Seeking BE MCA Graduation/working Same community with good family background Ct: 9087877789, 9842765576

FINANCE / BANKING

MANAGER, SBI, 32. Seeks independent, broad–minded Tamil or Malayali woman as life partner. People into caste/ religion/ horoscope pl. excuse. Ct: 9789227517 (Whatsapp only).

KERALITE NAIR 36yrs 168cm Btech Manager. Canara bank Manipal. Modest and Godfearing girls. Convenient, WhatsApp message Father 7012087429

DOCTOR

HINDU/ THEVAR , Star– Revathi, Lagnam– Meenam / MBBS from Govt. Medical College, 32,Yrs/ 180 CMS, working with Govt. Railway Hospital at Mumbai, from Metropolitan, Affluent family. Seeks MBBS Bride, Never Married, from THEVAR/ MARAVAR /AGAMUDAIYAR from Respectable, Elite Family.Contact: 9869164779/ 9941824629

Hindu, SC(AD), 28/170cm MBBS, MD Final year Chennai. Seeks Good Looking Doctor Bride below 27 yrs. CNB Ct: 9841897953 / 9710668449

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

SEEKING A bride for our U.S.–born son, 173 cm tall, 155 lbs, good–looking, fair complexion, holding a Master's degree in Education and working as an educator. We are a respectable and well–connected family, and he values Indian traditions along with a modern outlook. Looking for an educated, English–speaking Indian girl aged 25–30 (Rajput preferred, open to all castes), preferably residing in the USA; contact: RWertzberger66@gmail.com.

31 Years/ 180 cm/ PG / Hindu/ SC/ Seeks Bride - Contact Phone: 9940571094.

32 Years/180cm/ M.Tech/ Hindu Groom/ Seeks CNB-Bride, Contact : 9940570961

MALAYALAM

36YRS OLD PSB Sr mngr with bladder disorder doing catheterization. less chance for s*xual life. Can conceive by IVF. Bride from any back ground who can accept the medical issues welcome especially who have any physical/medical issues. 8891082891

Hindu Nair, 28/177, working in USA, seeks US-based Bride. Contact No : [9400619483].

HINDU/36/161/B.TECH/MS(UK) MNC Chennai Settled Seeks Alliance from BroadMinded Fly Caste NoBar 9841879318

ALLIANCE INVITED for my Son, 29 Years, 183cm Tall. PG in Economics. Hindu, Kerala, Thiyya. Lead Data Engineer – MNC. Annual Income from job 30 lakh. Family Manufacturing business in Chennai with Annual Revenue in excess of 15 Cr. A Mechanical engineer from a business family will be a good match. E mail: paloran.m@gmail.com 9600046704

NRI

NAIDU, 32/180CM, BTECH, MS, Pooratathi, Research Engineer working in Sweden, call: 9566682220

SAURASTRA

CNB BC 40 1st Marriage Astham Kani MBA Finance 1.5L pm Suitable Bride Required Parents Contact 9444735240

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 35, MS, Doctor. PH: 8138901189

CHRISTIAN, 29, MBA, 40 lakhs. PH: 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, 33, Divorced, BE, 50 lakhs. PH: 9072777822

CHRISTIAN, 27, BE, Private, 50 lakhs. PH: 8138900470

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar 29yrs MS holds 140 status well settled in USA & India seeks same community student, H1B Visa, or Citizen. Ct: 9382266099

TAMIL MUSLIM 28/174 MD Radiology seeks prof qualified bride Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN, 35/ 170cm, Divorcee, B.E. M.S (USA) Work Permit. Looking for a Suitable Bride working at USA Ct: 9003212573

GOOD LOOKING, Tamil speaking, slim, doing MD/MS or completed with moderate to liberal values from well educated broad minded family wanted for a Muslim 32 year old 180 cms MD radiology groom from an affluent Doctor family in Chennai.Inter religion/caste no bar.9840915151

RC CHRISTIAN, 43yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

CHRISTIAN, 25, Bornagain, NRI, 30 Crores, 8138 900316

CHRISTIAN, 2nd marriage, MBBS, 20crores, 7356 483111.

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 29yrs, B.Tech, MS (US), working in US, Business Family Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

VAANIYARCHETTY –39 visagam /176/ MS (Sweden) working Sweden 70 L.PA, (Swedish Citizen & OCI). Seeks BE/ MS/ MBA/ MCA/ CA/ Ph.D/ Prof. Bride CNB. Cont:9840429799

MUDALIAR 32/175 Veg Dip Siddha, Trustee Siddhar Trust Perambalur seeks Spiritual Bride Geetham 9884858014

BC EMPLOYED/SETTLED Girl for 35 year BE MBA Govt 1 Lac PM Chennai 9444925350/9884172821

HINDU, 32, Chettiyar, Raku/Ketu, ME, 20 crores. PH: 8137003550

HINDU, 34, Pillai, Nurse, NRI,50 lakhs. PH: 7356483111

MUDALIAR/PILLAI Divorcee (No Kids) BE MBA 32/163 Group 1 Officer working in Coimbatore, Preferably from same community seeking Graduate Girl Divorcee / First Marriage. CT: 94868-53954.

MUDALIAR, 38/172.5, BE, 70 LPA, working as a Software consultant in Sweden. Warmly welcoming a bride from humble, cultured & educated family. Ph: 9994773572/ 9901344995

SENGUNTHAR DOCTOR, 36/183 Divorced no issues, broad minded groom from affluent family seeks suitable professional bride b/w age 29-32 & Ht: 160-170cm, slim Divorced / never married. Caste no bar. Send BHP to palanikumarraaja@gmail.com

SAIVA Pillai CNB M.Sc MBA 4Lakh/ month Company owner 20 crores property only son 173 cm Visagam 47yrs unmarried. W.app-9841553677

Senguntha Mudhaliar Kettai 31/175 IFS(Forest) Officer,well educated family seeks Doctor Bride.CT: 9443428948

WANTED GOOD looking educated bride for IIT educated 33yrs old Tamil family boy working in Bangalore. Ct: +91 98402 54805

KALLAR 39, Star Kettai, BE (ECE) Dy Manager–Telecom Located at Trichy & Madurai, Seeks Suitable Bride Caste No Bar Ct:9443923062/ 9514349990

HINDU, SC, Tamil, 33, 170, MS, SWE, MNC in USA, H1B, I140, $230K, affluent family in Chennai seeks well educated south Indian girl in abroad / India.Caste no bar.Ct 9445442020

CNB BDS Surgeon, MBA (UK) Hospital Mgmt & Health Care, working as CEO in Bangalore Hospital, Divorcee no issues 1981 seeks Rich or PQ Dr/ Engr/ IT bride. V.J.Naidu 9886782390 or 9962246305

TAMIL

HINDU, 31, Mudaliyar, MBA, royal family. PH: 8138900412

HINDU, 30, UK, caste no bar, MSc, 50 crores. PH: 8137003550

SC AD Hindu Bride Age 26/163, BE, MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct 9443643415

HINDU NADAR– Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 Bank/IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40LPA Own House. Seeks blw 38yr. Call / WA : 9442126376

HASTHAM 38 Fair MCA Chennai wanted Pillai/Mudaliar Prof qufd working groom 9444136336/ 8220757159

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 34Yrs, Meensrasi, Revathi star, BE, LLB, Advocate. Seeks Groom with Good job, Good family. 9710002879

DOCTOR MD, 38Yrs, fair, slim, divorced, consultant at reputed hospital in Chennai, seek well–settled groom with clean habits Ph: 9445018192

✔ **HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR,** 39 yrs. 172 cm, BE MBA,(UK) employed in MNC bank, Bangalore,Rs.40 lacs pa, seeking a suitable employed groom. CNB. contact 9176689616.

MUDALIAR, 29 yrs, BE, affluent family with moral values at Bengaluru seek suitable groom. 7975421774

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 31yrs, B.Tech, Working in Bangalore, Elite business family Contact:6385293227

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, MA, Ph.d, well educated Elite family. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

MUDALIAR (CNB) 22/V.Fair, Under Graduate, Father Jewellery Business, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks Groom– Business/ Industrialist–9962530015

MUDALIAR: 26/FAIR & Beautiful, MBBS,MD doing Final year,Chennai, Business Family, Only Daughter, Seeks Groom Doctor/ Business/Eng–8925019776

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 35, 180 cms, BE-CS, Directors. Lives in Dubai. Business class family. Looking for a suitable from any Brahmin match from UAE or ready to relocate to UAE. Contact: 6366448344

BRAHMIN, 40, 175 cms, MBA, Business Analyst. Lives in San Francisco. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from similar community from USA. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 32, 168 cms, MBA (UK), Businessman. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 30, 160 cms, MAA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from settled background match in India from similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

CHETTIAR, 25, 160 cms, BE, Entrepreneur. Lives in Kakinada. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from settled background match from any similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

MUSLIM - HANAFI, 29, 170 cms, MBA, Professional. Lives in London. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from any Muslim community across globe. Contact: 6366448344

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TAMIL

HINDU, 31, Mudaliyar, MBA, royal family. PH: 8138900412

HINDU, 30, UK, caste no bar, MSc, 50 crores. PH: 8137003550

SC AD Hindu Bride Age 26/163, BE, MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct 9443643415

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DOCTOR MD, 38Yrs, fair, slim, divorced, consultant at reputed hospital in Chennai, seek well–settled groom with clean habits Ph: 9445018192

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GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, MA, Ph.d, well educated Elite family. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

MUDALIAR (CNB) 22/V.Fair, Under Graduate, Father Jewellery Business, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks Groom– Business/ Industrialist–9962530015

MUDALIAR: 26/FAIR & Beautiful, MBBS,MD doing Final year,Chennai, Business Family, Only Daughter, Seeks Groom Doctor/ Business/Eng–8925019776

TAMIL

LOOKING FOR a suitable Bridegroom for a vanniar girl, aged 28 yrs, B.com B.L. Hons with ACS & employed in a big Corporate. Similar profile or other Professionals with good family background based in Chennai preferred – 9003199945 / 9003035547

VANNIA KULAKSHTRIYA Girl, 32 years 155cm, MDS (Dentist), working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai. Star Moolam 4padam, DhanusuRasi. Contact: 9382167197 / 9962781009

SWATHI BE (Mech) MS (NUS) 28 yrs 158 5 years Experience abroad Working in MNC Bangalore Fair Slim intercaste seeks any Professional Groom 9363631558

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 29yrs, MBBS, MPH (US), Elite business family. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

HINDU NADAR, BE, Age 25/5'8", IT, 6 LPA, Seeks in same caste, Employed in government or private with clean habits, good salary and settled. Contact: 9003234049

MUDALIYAR 30, BE, MBA, Chennai, working in Cognizant, seeks suitable groom. CT: 9940421355/ 9150570749

MUDALIYAR, 32 yrs, 5'3", Beautiful looking girl, Studied International Business Management in abroad, lives in Chennai, Family is very affluent, involved in to multiple businesses, net worth is about 200 crores. Expecting a similar family background groom from Mudaliyar or any caste. contact. 9500124086

MUDALIAR 26/165, Fair, Beautiful, MBBS MD, DOCTOR, SIMS Hospital, 1800000 PA, CNB, 9043991629, 9043987029

✔ **TN GOVT** DR. MBBS MD Fair slim 23–02–90 Magaram Uthiradam 4 Chennai Hindu Naidu Elite Business Family seeks Dr, Class A officer, Business Groom. Any Hindu FC/BC. 9841743266.

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 27yrs, M.Arch, Running Own firm in Chennai, Elite Business family 9952619776

TAMIL

THONDAIMANDALA MUDALIAR Girl 39 Poosam two time divorce no child B.Tech,M.B.A working as Executive in M.N.C at Thiruvellore seeks well qualified and well employed in Chennai only. Vegetarian Mudaliar or Vegetarian family boy only.Ct:9381004883

HINDU, 27, Widow, Caste no bar, Rich / affluent, BA, 30 lakhs, 8138 900412

HINDU SC 27 MA B.Ed M.Phil professor private college seeks groom. Ph: 89395 50891 / 73583 33487

HINDU, 31, Canada, caste no bar, B.Tech, 40 lakhs, 7356 483111

HINDU, 29, Divorced, caste no bar, doctor, 50 lakhs, 8137 001255

HINDU, 34, divorced, NRI, BE, 30 lakhs, 8137 003550

GROOM WANTED SC (AD), 26yrs, CA, Well Educated Family background in Chennai. Contact: 9176491777

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR,
26 Yrs. 154 cms, B.Com Hons., MBA., Into father's Business, Family is financially well off. Looking for affluent family match in Sengundhar/Agamudayar/ Vellalar in Pondicherry only.
9443469444

Hindu SC (AD) 26yrs, BSc (Maths), Working as Teacher, well educated family background in Chennai. Seeks suitable Bridegroom. Ct: 94442 15959 (Father), 73059 15303 (Mother)

Hindu SC/AD Age 38 BE Software Engr. in TCS, Chennai. Rs.1.40Lak/pm seeks suitable Qualified Employed Groom. Ct: 9952147216 / 8838034943

MBBS MD doing DM Medical Oncology in Chennai 30 years Bharani Saiva pillai looking Doctor, Govt. Bank officer, Professional groom from Saiva pillai Chettiar Mudaliar Karkarthar working in Chennai. Ct: 9444855751.

DOCTOR

BRIDE WANTED
26 year old Doctor groom, US Citizen from affluent doctor family is looking for suitable bride, preferably from Kongu Vellala Gounder/ similar community living or willing to move to US.
WhatsApp on
94884 70259

DOCTOR

Tamil Yadav (CNB) Age 26, Height 168, MD (PSM). Chennai. Contact - Details: 9840235312.

Continued on Page 4

Hidden for decades, a British-era outpost returns to life

For over 25 years, dense creepers and wild plants had covered the site completely; it is now being used by the Army Women's Association and other charitable organisations for meetings and activities

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

A forgotten British-era military outpost inside an Indian Army campus that once stood along the old Bengaluru-Chennai route has been brought back to life after decades of neglect. The fort-like structure, believed to be over 150 years old, is in Domlur and was restored by the Indian Army and more than 150 volunteers from HandsOn Foundation, an environmental NGO.

The place is now being used by the Army Women's Association and other charitable organisations for meetings and activities.

For over 25 years, dense creepers, climbers and wild plants had covered the site completely.

A view of the British-era outpost in Bengaluru before and after restoration works were carried out. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Volunteers of a city-based NGO carrying out restoration works on the outpost premises.

Identified during lake revival

Gurunandan Rao M., founder and president, HandsOn Foundation, told *The Hindu* that the place was identified in 2024, during a lake revival project. "We had been working with the Army on the creation and maintenance of Eagle's Nest Lake at the 515 Army Base Workshop, now regarded as Bengaluru's highest-elevation lake. During this work, Brigadier R.S. Budhwar, the then Commandant, pointed out another neglected site on the campus," he said.

They found that two massive iron gates secured using old riveted technology had been jammed shut for years. Vegetation had grown through and around the building.

With negligible resources available, the approach shifted to cleaning with manpower. The NGO arranged workers who spent nearly 15 to 20 days clearing the exterior, while military personnel and their family members contributed during weekends.

What was revealed

Once the area was cleared to access the gates, a JCB was used to push the gates open. What first appeared to be a small ruin opened into a large inner ground surrounded by multiple rooms, confirming that it was a planned military installation, Mr. Rao said.

Experts who examined the site identified it as a British-era Army depot and protection post, capable of housing around 30 to 40 soldiers. The size and reinforcement of the gates suggest that horses and possibly elephants were kept there. The outpost likely functioned as a security and observation post along the Bengaluru-Chennai road, which was a key military route.

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One section of the structure includes a small circular enclosure believed to have been used to detain prisoners, based on design features, such as limited entry points for sunlight. Experts involved in the revival explained that the British commonly confined Indian freedom fighters to darker spaces.

Attempts to trace official records of the building were unsuccessful. Military service records available on site date back to around 1839, but the outpost does not appear in them, suggesting it may have been built earlier.

What was the structure

Based on construction techniques and materials, experts estimate the structure dates back to the early 19th century, around the 1810s, the time the British Army made a garrison here.

Old maps and historical references indicate that the outpost may have formed as part of a larger military network connected to what is now the Indian Air Force Command Hospital area, where British soldiers and their families were treated. The elevated sections of the structure appear to have been used for night observation.

Historically, the outpost is part of Domlur's role within the British Bangalore Civil and Military Station. After the Treaty of Srirangapatna in 1799, after the fall of Tipu Sultan in a battle with the British, the area became a key military zone, housing troops, training grounds, firing ranges, and a polo pavilion.

The land remained under British rule until 1949, when it was transferred to the Mysore State.

It is now managed by Indian defence establishments, including the 515 Army Base Workshop and ASC College, Karnataka and Kerala Sub Area.

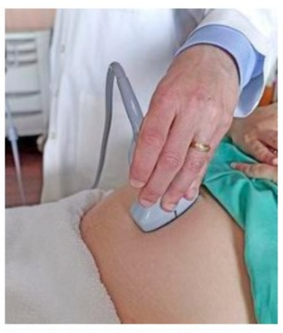
State approves ultrasound training for MBBS doctors to strengthen maternal healthcare

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at strengthening maternal and child healthcare services in Karnataka, the State government has issued an order granting administrative approval to provide six-month ultrasonography training to in-service MBBS doctors of the Health Department.

The decision follows the shortage of radiologists in several district hospitals, which has affected the delivery of quality antenatal and postnatal services. To address diagnostic gaps, the government has also decided to create 114 new radiologist posts. Currently, there are only 75 sanctioned radiologists in 189 facilities (148 taluk hospitals and 41 community health centres).

The training programme will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the PC & PNDT Act and the Training Rules, 2014, officials said.



The decision follows the shortage of radiologists in several district hospitals, which has affected the delivery of quality antenatal and postnatal services.

Training centres

A total of 11 hospitals across the State have been identified as training centres. These include K.C. General Hospital and Jayanagar General Hospital in Bengaluru; Lady Goschen Hospital and Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru; Chigateri District Hospital in Davanagere; and district hospitals in Chikkaballapur, Dharwad, Tumakuru, Vijayapura, Ballari, Kolar and Bagalkot, according to the Order.

The government aims to train 69 MBBS doctors under the guidance of 23 faculty members, maintaining a teacher-student ratio of 1:3. Only in-service MBBS doctors will be eligible for the programme. Doctors who complete the training will be required to provide ultrasonography services exclusively in government hospitals.

To ensure uninterrupted public healthcare services, district health officers have been directed to appoint doctors on a contractual basis in place of those undergoing training.

Rationalisation

The Health Department is working on rationalising deployment of specialists under the Mother and Child Health (MCH) triad – gynaecologists, anaesthetists and paediatricians – across taluk hospitals and community health centres (CHCs).

The move is to ensure that all taluk hospitals function as Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) facilities, capable of handling complicated deliveries, Caesarean sections and newborn emergencies round the clock.

"We are introducing a rotating 'double triad' system to make specialists available 24/7. This will prevent unnecessary referrals to tertiary hospitals, where delays often prove fatal," Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao had said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that, our client Mr.Anirudh Shukla, Residing at:G-11, Autumn Block, Windsor Four Seasons Apartment, Behind Meenakshi Temple, Hulimavu, Bannarghatta Road, Bengaluru has lost original documents viz. 1) Allotment Letter issued by The Mysore Road Industrial Employees House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd. 2) Possession Certificate issued by The Mysore Road Industrial Employees House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd. in respect of immovable residential property bearing Site No.38, situated at Thavarekere, Bangalore City, while taking Xerox copy of the same near Meenakshi Temple, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru. Our client had lodged an online police complaint on 07-02-2026, lost report No. 2050280/2026. If anybody found the said document please contact this Nos. 9844155041 and 9986489391.

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri", 2nd Floor,
6th Main, 5th Cross, Opp.Corporation School,
Sampangiramanagar,Bangalore - 560 027.
Mob:9844155041,Off:080-22223949.

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

E-Tender No.: MROT-3-2025.
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Maint, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela acting for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender through Indian Railways specialized tendering Portal **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed firms based on single packet system for the under mentioned work :
1. Name of work with its location and completion period : Name of work : Revamping of Mould Pre-Heat Ovens (MPO's-03 Nos.) at RWP/Bela. **Location :** RWP/Bela, **Completion Period :** 180 Days., **2. Approx. cost of the work :** ₹ 86,14,000/-, **3. Bid Security to be Deposited :** ₹ 1,72,300/-, **4. Tender closing date and time :** 27.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs., **5.** Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : For full details and submission of bid tenderer/bidder may kindly visit Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer(s)/bidder(s) are directed to remain connected with IREPS portal **www.ireps.gov.in** for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender.
Dy.CME/Maintenance, RWP, Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/107

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that, our client has proposed to purchase the Schedule property from its present owners Mrs.Chandana L and Mr.Sudhakar, Person/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, share, title and interest in the Schedule property may lodge their objections/ claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence 7 days from this day of publication and any objection/ claims received thereafter will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned Schedule property as if there are no claims/ objections.
-:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:-
All that piece and parcel of an immovable residential property bearing Apartment/ Flat No.104 (2BHK), on the Ground Floor, of the multi storied building known as "SUPREME SAMRUDDHI" and apartment measuring 1060 Sq.Ft. of Super built up area 308 Sq.Ft. of UDS, one covered Car Parking area in the upper basement floor and the apartment constructed on the property bearing Site No.244, BBMP Khatha No.880/139/137/137/831B/244, carved out of Sy.No.83, Re-Sy.No.83/1B of Mallathahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.
V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri", 2nd Floor,
6th Main, 5th Cross, Opp.Corporation School,
Sampangiramanagar,Bangalore - 560 027.
Mob:9844155041,Off:080-22223949.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
CCTV Works

DRM (C)'s Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the president of India Invites E-tender from the reputed firms/Contractor for the following work: **E-tender Notice No.:** SUR-C-WKS-CCTV-GDS-SHED. **Name of work:** Provision of CCTV facility in 10 goods sheds over Solapur division. **Estimated cost:** ₹ 14614457.59. **Earnest Money Deposit:** ₹ 223100.00, **Completion period of the work:** 6[six] Months. **Maintenance Period:** 12 [Twelve] Months. **Cost of Tender form:** Nil. **Last Date and time for submission for tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 02.03.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender on www.ireps.gov. in:** 02.03.2026 after 15.30 Hrs. **Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in** Note: The Prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any change/ corrigendum issued for this tender website: **www.ireps.gov.in** EXP-07

Download UTS App for Tickets

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka, constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, vide its letter **No. SEIAA 278 CON 2025** dated: 19.01.2026 has accorded Environmental Clearance to **M/s. APG Green Homes Private Limited** for Development of Residential Apartment Project at Sy. Nos. 54/3 & 54/4, Honnenahalli Village and Sy. Nos. 130/2, 130/3,130/4,130/5& 130/6, Singanayakanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka as per the applicable provisions of EIA notification, 2006 and amended thereafter.

Copy of the Clearance letter is available with the **SEIAA** office and may also be seen on the website of the **MOEF & CC** at https://parivesh.nic.in.

This Public Notice is issued in compliance with the conditions laid down in the above Environmental Clearance.

Sd/-

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

CANARA BANK
BYATARAYANAPURA BRANCH - 423

NOTICE TOWARDS BREAK OPEN OF LOCKERS

Sl. No.	Name And Address of the locker	Account No.	Locker Dues (excluding penalties)	Date of Notice
1	BALAKRISHNA KAKATHKA S/O.LATE DR.S.B.KAKATHKAR 106, 14th Cross, 4th Main NGEF Layout-Nagarabhavi Bangalore North, Bengaluru	123005 131764	Rs.35,400/-	27/11/2025 23/01/2026

A Public notice is hereby given to all the persons concerned and public in general that the person/s named under this notice have availed the facility of safe depost lockers at the below mentioned branches of Canara Bank (including branches of e-Syndicate bank). The respective branches have already addressed individual letters/Notices by registered post, with acknowledgement due (AD) to locker hirers/ LOA at the latest available address as per our Bank records with a request to remit the arrears of Locker rent. Despite of these notices, the locker hirers/ LOA have not contacted the Branch and have not remitted the locker rent arrears.
Above named Locker Hirers and their legal heirs are requested to consider this as the Final Notice and contact the Branch concerned with necessary documents and remit the locker rent arrears within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the Bank will break open the lockers without any further notice or intimation, at the cost and sole risk of the hiers or their legal respresentatives/heirs.
Date: 07.02.2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place: Bengaluru Canara Bank

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK
(A Scheduled Bank Established By Government of India-Sponsored by Canara Bank)
Head Office: No.32, Sangankal Road, Gandhinagar, Ballari-583103
Regional Office : MANDYA (DP Code:2506)
P.B. No. 41, 2nd Cross, Ashok Nagar, Mandya-571 401
Phone: 08232-231570, 221204, 224099, E-mail: roman.rlw@kgbk.in

DEMAND NOTICE
(SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT-2002)
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (HEREIN AFTER CALLED THE ACT)

At the request, Bank has extended credit facility to the below mentioned individuals against secured assets through its below mentioned Branch as under. The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement / documents & creation of mortgage by way of deposit of the title deeds Simple mortgage are also furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/credit facilities have become irregular, the debt has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives / guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice dated as mentioned below sent by register post AD calling upon you, was unserved / not acknowledged, Hence this paper notification.

Branch : Ramanagara

1) Name & Address of the Borrower/Mortgagor : 1. Lingaraju K S/o M Kempalingaiah Residing at #316, Ward No 25, Manjunatha Nagar, Ramanagara – 562159 **2. Guarantor: B Manjanna** S/o Basappa R/o 167, 1st Cross, Manjunath Nagar, Ramanagara – 562159

Nature of Loan	Loan A/c No.	Date of Loan	Loan Limit (Rs)	Liability (Rs)	Un-applied interest/ charges from
Mortgage loan	4221320 4000119	29-01-2019	Rs. 13,25,000/-	Rs. 4,02,040.31/-	Interest from 28.01.2026 to till the date of realization 13.00% plus penal interest @2%

Liability : **Rs.4,02,040.31/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Two Thousand Forty And Thirty One Paisa Only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 26-01-2026 **Demand Notice Date : 30-01-2026**
Details of Secured Property : All that piece and parcel of Residential house bearing Property no. 25-3-521-316, Khatha no. 121/116/157/21, #316, Ward no. 25, Near Govt. School, Manjunathanagara, Ramanagara Town & District, **Measuring : East-West: 14.325629 meters, North-South:9.144018 meters, Totally 130.993230 Square meters (Building measuring 69.67725 Sq. meters) Bounded On East by :** Road, **West by:** Dr. Rajulyer, **North by:** Jayalakshmamma, **South by:** J R Kumaraswamy

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 2 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

Date : 08-02-2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : Mandya Karnataka Grameena Bank

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited to upgrade the server systems at computer Labs of Army Public School ASC Centre & College (APS ASC C&C). Tender Enquiry/Form can be collected from school office after payment of Rs.250/- (Demand Draft in favour of APS ASC C&C) from 08 Feb 2026 to 18 Feb 2026 (0930hrs to 1230hrs). Last date and time to submit filled tender form is 18 Feb 2026 at 1230 hrs.

P O / Member 1
For School Management

NATIONAL ACADEMEY OF CUSTOMS INDIRECT TAXES & NARCOTICS
PALASAMUDRAM, SRI SATYASAI DISTRICT, ANDHRAPRADESH.

CALLING FOR TALENTED COACHES & INSTRUCTORS FOR EMPANELMENT

The National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN), Palasamudram, invites applications from eligible professionals for the **empanelment of instructors in the following disciplines:**

- **SPORTS & PHYSICAL TRAINING:** Tennis / Volleyball / Football / Badminton / Swimming / Parade cum PT Master / Fitness cum Gym Trainers.
- **Wellness:** Yoga Instructors
- **Arts & Culture:** Vocal teacher / Instrument teacher / Classical Dance Instructor / Modern or Contemporary Dance Instructor / Zumba Dance

ELIGIBILITY & EMOLUMENTS
Candidates are advised to visit the official websites for the detailed circular viz., educational & experience requirements and remuneration offered:

- **CBIC Official Website: www.cbic.gov.in**
- **NACIN Official Website: www.nacin.gov.in**

HOW TO APPLY: Interested candidates should submit their filled-in application forms along with necessary testimonials via email.

- **Email to: admin-nacinpsm@gov.in**
- **Last Date has been extended to February 28, 2026**

NOTE : Please ensure the subject line of your email follows the format: "Application for [Post Name] - [Your Name]".

Sd/- The Additional Director General
NACIN, Palasamudram.

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 122 / 2021

Between :
Punjab National Bank
A body Corporate constituted under The Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertaking) No. 40 of 1970, Having its Corporate Office at Plot No. 4, Sector-10, Dwaraka, Newdelhi - 110075.
And Carrying business through its branches at various place including Circle SASTRA Bangalore, Raheja Towers, First Floor, 26-27, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560001. PAN No. AAACP0165G, RTGS Inward A/c No. 1486103171160, IFSC No. PUNB0148610.
Represented by its Chief Manager Sri. Chandrajeet Kumar, Aged about 41 years, Mob.: 9962022231, E-Mail : cs8191@pnb.co.in.
Punjab National Bank ... Applicant
And :
M/s. Jai Gurudev Textile and Others ... Defendant

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993.

To :
1. M/s. Jai Gurudev Textiles
No. 15, Mallige Thota, 1st Cross, Beside GT World Mall, Prasanna Theatre, Cholurupalya, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560023 PAN No. AAMF3694H, Mob.: 7411025148. **Represented by its Partners, Sri. Jugaraj and Smt. Jyothi Solenky.**
2. Sri. Jugraj, Aged about 37 years, **Son of Sri. Rataramji,** PAN No. BJOPS9535C, Mob. : 7411025148, **Partner of M/s. Jai Gurudev Textiles.**
3. Smt. Jyothi Solenky, Aged about 35 years, **Daughter of Late Chandji,** PAN No. FUUPS2763A. Mob.: 7411025148.
Partner of M/s. Jai Gurudev Textiles.
Both 2 and 3 are at 1st Cross, Beside No. 15, Mallige Thota, GT World Mall, Prasanna Theatre, Cholurupalya, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560023.

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of debts due to Banks and recovery of sum of **Rs. 31,96,822.67 (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Two and Sixty Seven paise only)** together with Current and For other reliefs. The above mentioned defendant is therefore Hereby directed to appear before the tribunal in person of through an Advocate or duly authorized Agent, in support of the defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on the Day of **03-07-2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why relief prayed for should not be granted. Take Notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the **4th day of December, 2025.**

Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal - I
BANGALORE - 560001.

HIRING OF CASUAL LABOUR AT URC, ASC CENTRE (SOUTH), BANGALORE

1. Application are invited from volunteers for the following post on daily wages bases at URC.

Casual Employees	Vacancies	Education Qualification	Max Age Limit
Asst Accountant	01	Graduation	62
Billing Clerk / Assistant Billing Clerk	09	12th	40 Yrs (60 Yrs for Ex-Serviceman)
Labour	13	10th	30 Yrs
Conservancy Staff / Sweeper, Marshal, Housekeeper & Gardener	01, 02, 02 & 01	10th	40 Yrs

2. **Professional Knowledge for Assistant Account.** Working Experience of 10 years as accountant / asst accountant in URC more than Rs 5 cr pm turnover & For Billing Assistant / Billing Clerk. One year experience for op CIMS software and Index Number of URC items. Experience of having Professional knowledge to be produced as proof. Computer knowledge.
3. **Working Hours.** As per URC Timing.
4. **Salary.** As per Nerrick Rates.
5. **Locality.** Preference to persons from Bangalore.
6. **Police Verification & Medical Certificate.** Must & not more than six months old.
7. **Last Date of Submission Application / Resume.** 20 Feb 2026 at URC. Received on & after 21 Feb 26 not accepted.
8. Date of Interview & Location. 25 Feb 2026 (1000h) at URC. Report with originals documents by 0945h.
9. **Any Queries.** Contact Main Office URC. Interested candidates may send their recent CV and PP size photographs alongwith application addressed to URC Officer, URC ASC Centre & College, Agram Post, Bangalore so as to reach on or before 20 Feb 2026 in person.

Living tradition: Koya tribal priests, led by Kokkera Krishnaiah, carry the presiding deity Sammakka in the form of a vermilion casket from a secluded spot at Chilakalagutta to the Medaram shrine.

Symbol in sandal: A girl has a sacred mark drawn on her forehead during darshan at the Sammakka-Saralamma shrine.

Holy immersion: A view from the Jampanna Vagu as devotees perform ritual bathing, an integral part of the historic festival.

Homeward bound: Devotees begin their return journey after darshan of Sammakka and Saralamma, as the festival draws to a close at Medaram.

Bustling hub: A vast congregation fills Medaram village during the Maha Jatara, one of the largest tribal gatherings in the country.

SUNDAY
February 8, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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Registration subject to confirmation.

DAY 01

Inauguration : 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Keynote & Special Addresses

Session 1 : 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

From Classroom to Cosmos

Session 2 : 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Resilience by Design: Embedding Continuity into Organisational DNA using ISO 22301 & 27031

Session 3 : 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Powering India's AI-Future: Data Centres, Capital, and the Race to Scale

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

Session 4 : 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Cyber Resilience in an AI-Driven World: Balancing Risk, Recovery, and Privacy

Session 5 : 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Data Privacy & Security in Biometric Travel Platforms

Session 6 : 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

The Role of Technology in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery

Session 7 : 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Resilient GCCs: Continuity and Compliance at Global Scale

Session 8 : 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Governance, Risk and Intelligence: The Next GRC Framework

DAY 02

Session 1 : 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

AI-First Digital Transformation: Moving From Automation to Intelligence

Session 2 : 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Beyond Compliance: Leveraging ISO 27001 for Integrated Data Security Management

Session 3 : 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

AI, Academia & Resilience: Building Institutions & Talent for an Uncertain Future

Session 4 : 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Technology, Governance & Economic Growth: A State Perspective

1:45 PM - 2:30 PM LUNCH BREAK

Session 5 : 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

From Campus To Corporation: Building Industry-Ready Talent for an AI-First World

Session 6 : 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Data Privacy as a Pillar of Resilience: Building Trust in a Digital Age

Session 7 : 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Engineering Continuity: How Integrated IT Services Turn Risk into Resilience

Session 8 : 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bridging Academia and Industry: Building the Resilience Talent Pipeline

Session 9 : 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Data Security & Privacy in the Age of AI: Balancing Innovation and Compliance

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Eco System Partner: Startup சிங்கம் SEASON-2
Gift Partner: nexus A GIFTING COMPANY

Classical music festival to conclude today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 17th edition of the Indian Classical Music Festival, *Purana Gitam – a musical journey of devotion*, organised by the Bharatiya Samagana Sabha, will conclude on Sunday, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, Malleswaram. The final day's programme will begin at 5 p.m.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, FEB. 08	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:23
RISE 23:55	SET 10:54
MONDAY, FEB. 09	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:23
RISE 00:00	SET 11:35
TUESDAY, FEB. 10	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:24
RISE 00:45	SET 12:18

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	31	17
Bengaluru	30	16

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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BJP claims Centre put metro fare hike on hold; BMRCL says no such direction

'We can decide only when official communication comes to us. So far, we have not received any communication'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst a political slugfest over who is responsible for the Namma Metro fare hike, at least two BJP leaders from the city on Saturday claimed that the Union government had intervened and put the proposed fare hike on hold at their behest.

Tejasvi Surya, MP for Bengaluru South, and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok claimed the revised fares will not come into effect from February 9, as was scheduled.

However, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) told *The Hindu* that they had received no such communication.

"We can decide only when official communication comes to us. So far, we have not received any communication," a senior BMRCL official said. This

Tejasvi Surya

has created confusion whether the new fares will come into effect from Monday or not.

Mr. Surya and Mr. Ashok on Saturday claimed to have spoken to Union Minister of Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar flagging the issue and that he had directed officials to put the implementation of the revised fares on hold.

Submit request
Mr. Surya claimed that Mr. Khattar assured a review of anomalies in the Fare Fixation Committee's (FFC) recommendations and indicated that a fresh FFC could be considered if the State government submits a formal request.

Soon after Mr. Surya's claim, Mr. Ashok claimed in a post shared on X that he too had a chat with Mr. Khattar and the Minister had made similar assurances.

Both the leaders put the ball in the State government's court.

"It is now up to the State government to act in the interest of the people. The Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah must immediately abandon its rigid and insensitive approach and initiate the process of forming a new Fare Fixation Committee (FFC)," Mr. Ashok said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had, in a statement issued on Friday, put the onus on the Union government to fix Namma Metro fares and the State was bound to implement the fares recommended by the FFC, an independent committee.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar claimed the State was not even consulted on fare revision. Contradictin this, Mr. Surya claimed it was based on letters from the State that the FFC was formed.

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy alleged that the State government was trying to mislead people and the Centre's share in BMRCL was only 20%.

Automatic fare revision
The BMRCL had, on Thursday, announced a zone-wise fare revision under its Annual Automatic Fare Revision mechanism, with the revised fares scheduled to take effect from February 9.

The new structure involves a marginal increase of ₹1 to ₹5 across 10 fare zones, with fares recalibrated based on distance slabs across the Namma Metro network.

The announcement triggered strong backlash from commuters, as it came on the back of last year's sharp fare hike.

On February 9, 2025, BMRCL implemented a steep fare increase, with some slabs witnessing hikes of over 100%, leading to widespread protests across Bengaluru.

Following public outrage, BMRCL later said the anomaly was due to technical issues in the fare calculation and capped the hike at 71% from February 14, 2025.

As commuter anger resurfaced after Thursday's announcement, the issue soon turned into a political slugfest between the BJP and the Congress, with both sides trying to blame the other over the fare hike.

Airport buses to stop at all metro stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For the convenience of metro commuters travelling to Kempegowda International Airport, BMTC Vayu-vajra (airport) bus stops have been provided at all metro stations along the route, allowing passengers to directly board or alight airport buses at metro stations.

The initiative has been implemented by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) and the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), in coordination with the Bengaluru Traffic Police, as part of efforts to improve last-mile connectivity for Namma Metro users.

Earlier, airport buses stopped only at designated BMTC bus stops, many of which were located far from metro stations. This caused inconvenience to airport-bound commuters, especially those carrying luggage, a BMTC official said.

In addition to airport bus access, several new BMTC bus stops have been introduced close to metro stations on the Purple Line (Whitefield-Challaghatta) and the Green Line (Madavara-Silk Institute), with effect from February 5. The move follows joint inspections that found bus stops at some locations were situated far from metro stations, causing inconvenience to commuters, according to officials.

On the Purple Line, new stops have been added near Trinity and Hoodi stations. The Green Line has seen new or relocated stops near Majunathanagar, Peenya, Lalbagh, South End Circle, Jaya Prakash Nagar, Konanakunte Cross, Vajarahalli, and Thalaghattapura, with separate stops provided for different travel directions at several stations.

Impersonation of City Police Commissioner: Case registered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cybercrime Police have registered an FIR after finding a fake Facebook account impersonating the City Police Commissioner during routine social media monitoring. A case has been registered for identity theft and cheating by impersonation under Information Technology Act, 2000. According to the complaint, theMedia Monitoring Cell on Thursday noticed a Facebook profile using the name and photographs of City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh. The account was allegedly used to mislead the public and cheat them out of money. Police said the impersonator contacted unsuspecting individuals under false pretences, leading to several complaints of fraud.

GIFT GULATI INSTITUTE OF FINANCE AND TAXATION

GULATI INSTITUTE OF FINANCE AND TAXATION
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

No.A.008/2026/GIFT Dated 6 Feb 2026

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited for the post of full time Director of GIFT as per the Government order vide GO(Rt) No.153/2026/Taxes dated 5/02/2026.

Interested candidates may send their application along with Curriculum Vitae and copy of the relevant certificates to **careers.gift@gmail.com**

The last date for receiving the application is **23 Feb 2026**.

For more details, please visit www.gift.res.in

For Search Committee
Addl. Chief Secretary (Finance & Taxation)

APPOINTMENT

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Interested candidates may visit the Technopark website at https://www.technopark.in/careers for more details and submit their online application along with copies of certificates and testimonials on or before 5:00 PM on 20/02/2026. Only online applications will be accepted.

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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS AND ANCIENT CULTURES OF TAMIL NADU

Tamils have traditionally celebrated festivals to mark the changing seasons, and these celebrations were not confined to spring alone. Even the summer months were filled with festivals that reflected the rich cultural heritage and customs of the people. Deeply rooted in ancient customs and traditions, many of these festivals gradually assumed religious overtones.

The coffee-table book Fairs and Festivals of Tamil Nadu, vividly captures the history and spirit of these celebrations through eye-catching photographs and engaging write-ups. While urbanisation has diminished the charm of some festivals, their spirit continues to endure. The book inspires readers to travel across the State and experience these vibrant festivals firsthand.

Tamil Nadu
where stories never end
THE HINDU GROUP
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Minor goes missing; police probe role of online acquaintance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 16-year-old girl has been reported missing after she left her house on February 2, allegedly after being acquainted with a man she met on an online gaming platform, the police said.

According to the complaint, the missing girl had become acquainted with a person identified as Shahbaz through online gaming and mobile phone conversations.

On February 2, around 10 a.m., the girl left her house and did not return. Her family members searched for her among relatives, neighbours, and known contacts, but her whereabouts could not be traced.

Subsequently, the complainant suspected that the girl may have travelled to Uttar Pradesh to meet Shahbaz. Acting on this suspicion, the complainant went to Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh, and made inquiries, but no information about the girl could be obtained.

The complainant later approached the police and lodged a missing person complaint.

The Hebbagodi Police have registered a case. Efforts are on to trace the missing minor and verify the role of the suspect.

HC confirms death penalty for 3 men in gang rape and murder of minor

The court has declared that the 2021 crime against a girl aged around eight was the 'rarest of rare' cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has confirmed the death sentence for three men convicted of the gang rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl at a tile factory in Mangaluru, declaring the 2021 crime as a "rarest of rare" cases.

A Division Bench comprising Justice H.P. Sandesh and Justice Venkatesh Naik T. in its February 4 verdict has dismissed the appeals of the convicts, identified as Jayban Adivasi and Mukesh Singh, both natives of Madhya Pradesh, and Manish Thirki, a native of Jharkhand, and upheld the capital punishment awarded by a Mangaluru special court for cases registered under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in November 2024.

In tile factory

The incident occurred on November 21, 2021, on the premises of the tile factory where both the victim's parents, who are natives of Jharkhand, and the accused persons worked.

The Bench found sufficient evidence to establish that the men, in a premeditated conspiracy, lured the child with sweets, took her to a secluded room on the tile factory premises,

and subjected her to sequential rape and assault. And when she cried out due to bleeding injuries, Jayban Adivasi smothered her to death. Three of them then concealed her body in a drainage, the Bench noted.

The Bench affirmed the conviction by analysing a chain of circumstantial evidence, statements of eyewitnesses who had seen the victim girl with the three accused, conclusive DNA evidence linking the men to the crime, recovery of blood-stained clothing, and CCTV camera footage. The Bench noted the presence of chewed food particles in the victim's teeth, corroborating the prosecution's claim that she was lured with sweets.

Assessing the materials on record, the Bench said that "there are no mitigating circumstances favouring the accused to reduce the sentence, since it is a gangrape of a minor girl, who was aged about 7 years and 7 months at the time of commission of the offence".

Message to society

"If a lesser sentence is imposed, it will give a wrong message to society and the public at large, and this act of subjecting the minor girl to satisfy their lust would be encouraged as such act has to be curbed with iron hands," the Bench observed.

The trial against another man, Munim Singh, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, who is arraigned as accused number-4 in the case, is pending as he absconded after obtaining bail from Mangaluru court before trial began.

Terror accused at central prison dies due to illness

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of the central prison at Parappana Agrahara

A terror accused lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison died due to illness while undergoing treatment on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Sadiq Pasha, 47, an accused in the Suddaguntepalya explosive substances seizure case. He had been in judicial custody at the central prison.

According to officials, Sadiq Pasha was suffering from multiple health issues, including low BP and high sugar, for the past several months. As his condition deteriorated, prison authorities shifted him to Victoria Hospital for treatment. However, despite medical intervention, he died late Friday night as the treatment did not yield results.

The Suddaguntepalya police had registered the explosives seizure case in 2020, following which the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took over the probe. Sadiq Pasha was among six accused arrested in the case. Since his arrest, he had remained in custody at Parappana Agrahara prison for nearly six years.

Man, accused of nephew's murder, and three of his family found dead in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

All four were found dead at a dharmashala in Rajgir town of Nalanda district

Four members of a family hailing from Gubbi taluk in Tumakuru district were found dead in an apparent mass suicide at a dharmashala attached to a religious place in Rajgir town of Nalanda district, Bihar, on Friday.

One of the four, G.R. Nagaprasad, had allegedly murdered his minor nephew over a row over mobile gaming addiction of the boy, reported at Soladevanahalli in Bengaluru in August last year. It is suspected that mental agony and guilt had driven the family to take the extreme step.

The deceased have been identified as G.R. Sumangala, 78, her son Nagaprasad, a security guard at a private firm, and his two sisters G.R. Shilpa, 48, and G.R. Shurtha, 43. All four were found dead in a room of the dharmashala on Friday morning.

According to the police, the family had checked into the dharmashala a few days ago and had not opened the room door for nearly three days. On Friday morning, the dharmashala manager alerted the police after foul smell began emanating from the room. The police broke open the door and found all four bodies.

Documents found

The police found mobile phones, Aadhaar cards and other documents inside the room and contacted the Karnataka police.

On August last year, Nagaprasad had allegedly murdered Amogh Keerthi by slitting his throat and gone absconding for two days before surrendering to the Soladevanahalli police. He was out on bail. Keerthi was addicted to online gaming and gambling and repeatedly demanded money from the family. A week before the murder, he had allegedly assaulted his uncle after being denied money.

The family reportedly decided to travel to Bihar as part of a religious trip. They were planning to visit Rajgir and Nalanda, and had intended to proceed to Bodh Gaya later. However, under extreme mental stress, all four allegedly took the drastic step.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: Tele Manas 14416 or 18008914416 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

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HINDU, 27, USA, caste no bar, 20 crores, MS, 9072 777811

HINDU, SC (Aadhi Dravidar) (Preferable Kongu) 30, Punar Poosam, Mithunam (Gemini) Raagu Kedhu, 167cm Fair, B.E, M.Tech, 9L PA Bangalore. Seeks educated Bride Ct:9810078624

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, BE, Elite business family in Chennai. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

Vanniyakula Kshatriya, Chitirai, BE, M.S(USA), 30yrs, 176cm, Texas USA, work Permit, Family is Financially Well Off, Looking for a like Minded Brides working at USA. Contact: 8122072363, 9884604233.

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HINDU REDDY 41 191 cms issueless divorce MDS dentist working in private in Chennai 1 lakh/mth seeks tall bride CNB ct 9384003929

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TELUGU

REDDY, SWATHI, 29/183 BE, MS London, Business, divorced seeks educated, good family background girl. Naidu's also welcome. Ct: 9710933159

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TELUGU VANNAR, 41, MBA, Kanni, Astham, AGM in MNC, 30 Lac.PA, Any Telugu Caste no Bar. Ct: 98947 77505.

NAIDU, 29/185, H–some MBBS,MBA, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING, 6000000PA, CNB, 9043991629, 9043987029

30 Years/ 178cm/ MS/ Hindu/ Telugu Speaking Groom / Seeks Bride, Contact: 9940383460.

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu 30yrs B.Tech MS Own school & complexs Elite business family in Chennai 6385293227

HINDU Aryavysya Telugu-Vegetarian 37yrs/179cm, very good looking, working in a Bangalore based firm with WFH option,Monthly Income-2.5 Lacs, Divorcee, seeks suitable Bride in Tamilnadu. CT:9042593341.

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Tamil, 32Yrs, Son, ME, MBA 17 LPA; Daughters, 29Yrs, B.Tech, MBA 13 LPA, IT & 26 Yrs Bsc seek suitable Bride & Grooms, CNB, Ct:9441677205

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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LIC/P1/2025-26 /20/Eng

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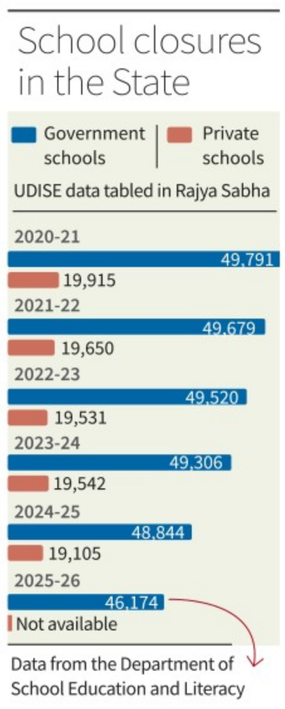
3,617 govt. schools closed in State between 2020-21 and 2025-26

Data tabled in the Rajya Sabha for 2025-26 shows 947 government schools shut down between 2020-21 and 2024-25

Jayanth R.

The Department of School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa had earlier claimed that no government school had been permanently closed in 2025-26, but only temporarily shut. FILE PHOTO



While the Karnataka government claims that no government school has been closed in the State, two sources of official data indicate that as many as 3,617 government schools were shut down between 2020-21 and 2025-26.

Data tabled by the Union Ministry of Education in the Rajya Sabha on February 4, in response to a question raised by a CPI(M) member John Brittas regarding school closures across the country, shows that 947 government schools shut down between 2020-21 and 2024-25. It came down from 49,791 in 2020-21 to 48,844 in 2024-25.

DSEL data

An October 15, 2025, order by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL), Karnataka, on establishing Karnataka Public Schools, pegs the number of government schools in the State at 46,174, indicating a drastic decline. Data for 2025-26, which saw the largest closures, pegged at 2,670, is not part of the data tabled in the Rajya Sabha.

DSEL Minister Madhu Bangarappa had earlier claimed in the Karnataka Legislature session that no government school had been permanently closed in 2025-26, but only temporarily shut.

Data for 2025-26, which saw the largest closures, pegged at 2,670, is not part of the data tabled in the Rajya Sabha

The enrolment of students in government schools in the State has declined from 47.1 lakh in 2015-16 to 38.2 lakh in 2025-26, recording a decline of 19%. The share of government schools in the total enrolment has declined from 46% to 38%.

During the same period, enrolment in private unaided schools increased from 36.3 lakh to 47 lakh, recording an increase of 29%. The number of government schools with an enrolment of 50 or less students has increased to 25,683 in 2025-26. This trend clearly indicates why government schools were shutting down year on year.

Private schools

However, data tabled by the Union Ministry of Education in the Rajya Sabha shows that even the number of private unaided schools have decreased in Karnataka – from 19,915 in 2020-21 to 19,105 in 2024-25. Data for 2025-26 is not available in the public domain.

Private schools that have not been renewed for Recognition Renewal (RR) are included in the closed schools list, sources said, explaining the anomaly, but also indicating the mushrooming of schools without regulation.

"This year, about 98% of private schools in the State have not renewed their RRs. In addition, schools that have not appointed qualified teachers under the RTE Act and those that have not obtained the religious and linguistic minority certificate from National Commission for Minorities, will not be renewed," explained developmental educationist V.P. Niranjanaradhya.

"Education is on the concurrent list. Unless a State gets substantial funds from the Union government, none can improve public education. But, year on year, allocation for education from the Union government is declining. Whatever the funds are released, they put a lot of conditions in the name of PM Shree schools, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Unless you comply with the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), funds are not released. RTE is a Central legislation. The share of Central and State funds for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which was 90:10 earlier, has now come down to 60:40. This should be reversed," he said.

Electrician dies after falling into sump near KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 43-year-old electrician died after allegedly slipping and falling into a water sump at a worksite near the Kempegowda International Airport First Circle on Wednesday evening. His family accused the company of gross negligence.

The deceased has been identified as Dhananjaya Deshpande, a native of Kalaburagi district, who had been residing at Kannamangala village in Devanahalli taluk with his wife for the past eight years. He was employed as an electrician with a private firm Sterling & Wilson Pvt. Ltd., and was working on the airport premises.

According to the complaint lodged by his wife, a homemaker, Dhananjaya had reported for B-shift duty on February 4. As part of his daily routine, he used to call his wife between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., but failed to do so that evening. Repeated attempts to contact him revealed that his mobile phone was switched off.

At around 8 p.m., Ravichandran, Maintenance Manager of Sterling & Wilson Pvt. Ltd., reportedly informed the complainant that Dhananjaya, with his co-worker Manjunath, had gone to check the electrical meter reading at the Booster Pump House near Airport First Circle around 6 p.m. While returning, Dhananjaya allegedly slipped and fell into a sump, resulting in his death.

The complainant has alleged that the company officials were aware the sump area posed a serious danger, but failed to provide adequate safety measures, did not properly secure or cover the sump, and failed to appoint responsible supervisory staff at the site. The airport police have registered an FIR charging the officials of Sterling & Wilson Pvt. Ltd. under section 106(1) for further investigations.

Case booked for flying drone in prohibited airspace of HAL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An unidentified drone was found inside a prohibited no-drone zone at the LUH Hangar of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) premises on Thursday, triggering security concerns.

According to the complaint, personnel of the security unit on duty at the LUH Hangar around 4.40 p.m. informed officials about an unidentified drone that had fallen in the Alpha Helipad tarmac area of the Helicopter Division. Security staff rushed to the spot and found a black-coloured drone equipped with an HD camera lying at the location. The area was declared a 'No Drone Zone' by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

A case has been registered.

Five city wards to get climate action plans under GBA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), on Saturday said that GBA has prepared Ward-Level Climate Action Plans for five selected wards in the city, one from each of the five city corporations under its limits.

During a meeting on the integration of climate action initiatives with the annual budget estimates of the five City Corporations, Mr. Rao said that the Climate Action Plans have been prepared by the GBA Climate Action Cell with support from working groups, following detailed assessments at the ward level.

"The analysis covered energy and buildings, transportation, solid waste management, urban planning, greenery and biodiversity, water, wastewater and stormwater management, and disaster management," he said.

Selected wards

The wards selected for the pilot exercise are Shantinagar in the Central Corporation, Jakkur in the North Corporation, Begur in the South Corporation, Vijayanapura in the East Corporation, and Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar Ward in the West Corporation, Mr. Rao said, adding that similar Climate Action Plans would be prepared for the remaining wards in a phased manner, following separate assessments for each ward.

Cyber command unit cracks down on mule herders' network, uncovers 42K mule accounts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of the operation, simultaneous raids were carried out across more than 29 districts at multiple locations in the State on February 5 and 6. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES

The Karnataka Cyber Command Unit (CCU) has carried out a massive statewide crackdown on an organised network of "mule herders" suspected of aggregating more than 42,000 mule bank accounts used for illegal financial activities.

As part of the operation, simultaneous raids were carried out across more than 29 districts at multiple locations in the State on February 5 and 6. So far, 17 FIRs have been registered. During the raids, the police seized 25 ATM cards, 13 cheque books, 12 mobile phones and other incriminating material. Multiple arrests were made in Bengaluru, Kolar, Tumakuru and Shivamogga districts. The raids were continuing, and further FIRs and arrests were likely over the next two days, sources said.

The police seized 25 ATM cards, 13 cheque books, 12 phones and other incriminating material

Pronab Mohanty, Director General of Police, CCU, who briefed the media about the statewide operation in Bengaluru on Saturday, described it as a "major crackdown" which unearthed a large network of so-called "mule herders" involved in facilitating cyber frauds across the state.

According to him, the accused allegedly collected personal identity documents and banking details from individuals—often by paying them between ₹10,000 and ₹20,000—to gain access to their bank accounts. These accounts were then used as "mule accounts" for routing money obtained through cyber frauds.

The mule herders acted as retail agents, supplying or renting out these bank accounts to other cyber criminals. The accounts were used for various illegal activities, including online scams, illegal betting operations, and so-called "digital arrest" frauds.

Investigators noted that many mule account holders were unaware that their bank accounts were being used for fraudulent money transfers, exposing them to serious legal and financial consequences.

Another officer, part of the CCU, explained that they used the NCRP portal to identify mule accounts, sorted them based on the number of cases, and then all the files were given to investigators to gather details of the accused. Further specific accused were targeted and arrested.

Police said mule accounts are commonly used by cyber fraudsters to route illegally obtained money, making detection difficult. Investigations are underway to trace money trails and identify larger fraud networks.

'SLBC accountable'

Mr. Mohanty said that the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) is supposed to monitor the velocity of the transactions and should flag unusual transactions to the authorities concerned. Failing on their job amounts to negligence and will be held accountable, he said.

Sources said that there were several instances where accounts with very low-value transactions and balances are flushed with high-value transactions, but the money that comes in leaves the account with no time to go to other accounts. Such transactions indicate they are mule accounts and need to be flagged. However, that is not what is happening in reality, sources said.

State to set up coordination centre to strengthen fight against cybercrime

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State will soon establish the Karnataka Cybercrime Coordination Centre (K4C) on the lines of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), an initiative of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs aimed at tackling cybercrime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

Explaining the significance of the initiative, Pronab Mohanty, Director General of Police, Cyber Crime Unit, said that K4C will focus on addressing all cybercrime-related issues faced by citizens. The centre will enhance coordination among various law enforcement agencies and stakeholders, strengthen the State's overall capacity to combat cybercrime, and improve citizen satisfaction levels.

Nodal agency

The K4C will function as a nodal agency to curb cybercrime in the State, with special emphasis on crimes targeting women and children. It will facilitate easy filing of cybercrime complaints, analyse emerging cybercrime trends and patterns, and act as an early warning system to enable proactive prevention and detection.

In addition, the centre will undertake public awareness programmes on cyber safety and will work towards capacity building of police officers, public prosecutors, and judicial officers in areas such as cyber forensics, cyber investigation.

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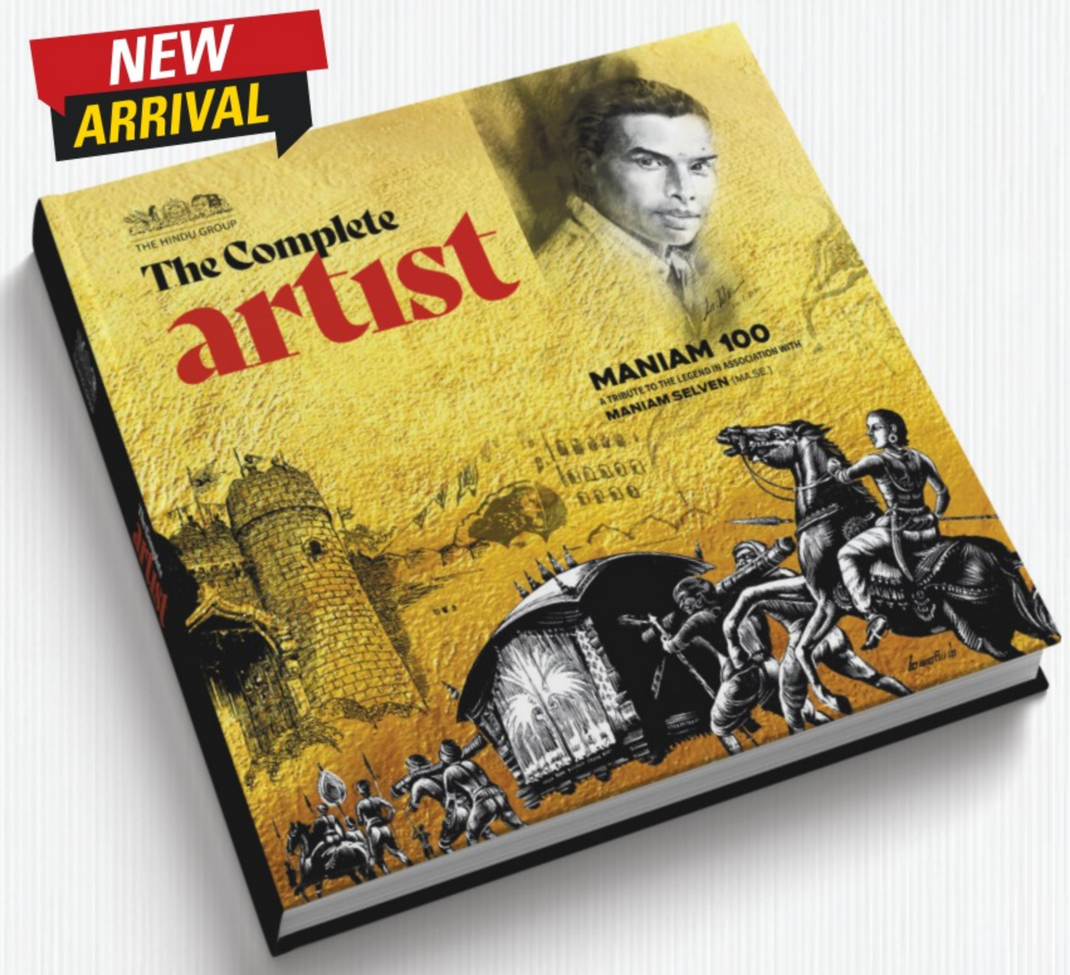

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Auto conversion of land use as per master plan in GBA area introduced

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda says this will help lakhs of property owners who have purchased unauthorised sites in the past

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda at a meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a big reform, the State government has introduced auto-conversion of land use in the notified Master Plan area within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area. Now, one can directly apply for a plan approval as per the Master Plan, and conversion will be done as part of the process automatically. A new software to facilitate the same was launched by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday.

"With the enabling provision of auto conversion, GBA now has the legal framework to convert B-Khata properties into A-Khata," Mr. Byre Gowda said, adding that this will help lakhs of property owners who have purchased unauthorised sites in the past. Getting A-Khata will add legal strength to such sites, enable them to obtain loans, increase the value of their property, ease transactions, and approvals.

GBA is now running a one-time scheme to issue A-Khata to B-Khata properties, if the site owner pays 5% of the guidance value.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar recently said that the GBA had received 1.2 lakh applications, of which 45,000 had been rejected.

Reducing discretion

Earlier, even lands falling within the Master Plan required separate conversion, despite the concept of "deemed conversion." This process typically took 4 to 6 months and often led to delays, harassment, corruption, and increased costs due to middlemen, Mr. Byre Gowda himself acknowledged.

"The auto conversion of land is intended to help legal, faster, and easier development of land. Thus, help common people to buy affordable sites. Ease of governance and compliance is hoped to reduce the cost and time of land development. This will benefit not only residential development, but is also available to industrial and other uses as permitted in the Master Plan. With this reform, the Revenue Department is hoping to plug bad governance and corruption at the source itself," he said.

"By bringing online transparent time-bound and automatic processes, discretion is reduced. All these steps, along with E-Khata and integration of different records, will reduce litigation and bring greater guarantee to property ownership," the Minister further said.

KSPCA urges revision of day duty hours for State reserve police in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The letter highlights that prolonged stress has resulted in serious health issues among staff, including high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart-related ailments.

The Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority (KSPCA) has urged the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) to consider revising the duty timings of Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) personnel deployed for day and night duties in Bengaluru, citing severe physical, mental, and family-related stress among officers and staff.

In a letter dated January 16, KSPCA member Mohan Kumar Damappa stated that at present, four KSRP battalions are deployed daily across Bengaluru city to maintain law and order. However, the existing duty schedule has placed an excessive burden on personnel, forcing them to work extended hours ranging from 11 hours to 16 hours a day.

According to the letter, personnel assigned to day duty leave their homes by 6 a.m., collect weapons and ammunition, and report to designated police stations before commencing duty. After completing duty around 8 p.m., they return weapons to the armory and reach home only by 10 p.m. Officers are reportedly assigned day duty for three to four days a week and night duty for one to three days, leaving little time for rest or family life.

The Authority noted that due to such schedules, personnel are unable to spend time with their families, attend emergencies or family functions, and in some cases, marital relationships have deteriorated, with a few families reportedly on the verge of separation. The letter further highlights that prolonged stress has resulted in serious health issues among staff, including high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart-related ailments.

The KSPCA pointed out that while labour laws mandate an eight-hour workday, police personnel are routinely assigned extended shifts without rotational relief systems available to other units. The issue has previously been discussed in the Karnataka Legislature as well, the letter added.

While acknowledging the police force as an essential round-the-clock service, the Authority has recommended that, except in emergency or special situations, day city duty timings be revised to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and night duty from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., to help personnel perform their duties stress-free while maintaining work life balance.

The KSPCA has requested the head of the reserve force to examine the proposal and issue appropriate directions or a circular in the interest of personnel welfare. The core issue of streamlining work hours will not only improve the quality of work but also prove beneficial to the mental and physical health of the staff. This would reduce the corrupt practices to some extent, Mohan Kumar Danappa, member of the KSPCA, told *The Hindu*.

Chemical units, workshops inspected

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of an Anti-Narcotics Drive aimed at preventing the manufacture, storage, transportation, and sale of narcotic substances, Bengaluru East Division Police inspected 45 chemical manufacturing units, 165 workshops, and 116 warehouses within their jurisdiction. This comes close on the heels of the Narcotics Control Bureau claiming to have unearthed a clandestine lab manufacturing synthetic drugs under the garb of running a unit producing phenol in Mysuru's industrial area.

The police conducted station-wise inspections and verified records, storage practices, and operational activities of the establishments. Owners and managers were clearly warned that stringent legal action would be initiated against anyone found involved in illegal activities.

Regional finale of Cerebration Corporate Quiz today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The regional finale of the 22nd edition of *The Hindu BusinessLine Cerebration Corporate Quiz* will be held on Sunday at 9.30 a.m. The event will take place at Kristu Jayanti University, which serves as the venue partner.

This year's edition of the corporate quiz has seen an enthusiastic nationwide response, with more than 6,000 participants taking part in the online preliminary round. With registrations now closed, the championship enters its much-anticipated regional phase. Open to corporate executives, business professionals, and emerging quizzing talent, BusinessLine Cerebration has cemented its position as one of India's most respected knowledge platforms on the corporate quiz circuit. Contestants will compete for an attractive prize pool of ₹1.5 lakh, with ₹75,000 for the winner, ₹50,000 for the runner-up, and ₹25,000 for the third-place finisher.

The Cerebration Corporate Quiz 2026 is presented by J.K. Tyre as the Title Partner and powered by IndianOil Corporation Ltd., in association with BSE. The event is supported by the Central Bank of India as an Associate Partner. Nexus Gifting Solutions is the Gift Partner, and NEXUS is the Quiz Partner for the championship.

With excellent participation in the prelims and a strong lineup of partners, the Bengaluru Regional Round promises an exciting battle of wits as top quizzers compete for a place in the subsequent stages of the tournament.

Over 2,000 medical students benefit from Bengaluru-based private hospital's 'Udaan' initiative

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Devi Shetty, founder and chairman of Narayana Health, with Udaan student beneficiaries in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A long-running education support programme aimed at strengthening the healthcare workforce in the country has enabled more than 2,000 students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue careers in medicine and nursing over the past 12 years.

The CSR initiative - Udaan - run by Narayana Health, provides structured academic guidance and financial assistance to meritorious students seeking admission to government medical, nursing, and paramedical institutions.

According to the organisation, over 1,200 MBBS students and more than 800 nursing students have benefited from the programme to date.

Devi Shetty, founder and chairman of Narayana Health, on Saturday felicitated students supported by Udaan, many of them first-generation entrants into the healthcare profession.

Dr. Shetty told *The Hindu* that while the national doctor-to-population ratio is officially estimated at around 1:811, it drops sharply in several rural and underserved regions, reaching nearly 1:2,700 in some States.

The Udaan initiative seeks to address this imbalance, he said. He added that many graduates of the programme go on to serve in areas where access to healthcare services remains limited.

In eight States

Launched in 2014 in Karnataka, Udaan has expanded into a multi-State initiative spanning eight States. The programme has its origins in West Bengal, where it began in 2008 under the name Udayer Pathey, before being consolidated under the common name Udaan as it expanded nationally.

During the 2024-25 academic year, the programme supported over 800 MBBS students across 15 government medical colleges and more than 800 nursing students in 13 nursing colleges. Women accounted for 53% of the NEET aspirants supported during the year.

205 admissions this year

Programme outcomes for 2024-25 included 36 students securing admission to various All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and four to Lady Hardinge Medical College. Of the 475 students supported during the year, 205 gained admission to government medical colleges across more than 30 institutions nationwide. Over the past three years, more than 360 Udaan scholars have joined government medical colleges. "The average cost of training one doctor under the programme during 2024-25 stood at ₹50,400," Dr. Shetty added.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Y/E-29/2025-26/88
Dated : 02.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	Improvement of Illumination by providing of new lighting arrangements at all pit lines in Mysuru and Arsikere.	Rs. 22,44,467.64/-

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT MY CLIENTS SRI. VENKATESH.T S/o Sri C.Thimmaiah and Sri. **RAMESH.T.** S/o C.Thimmaiah are intending to purchase the below stated schedule property from Sri.M.V.Trinetra S/o Sri.M.V.Veerabhadrappa and the same was being acquired vide Reg.No. 8537/1980-81, dated 26.09.1980 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, by way of absolute Sale Deed from K.Shanmugam and others. If any person/ firm/ institution/ company/ bank/ housing corporation having any claim or right in respect of the schedule property is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of publication of this public notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any with all supporting documents, failing which, the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim and the claims, if any such persons shall be treated as waived and not binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

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ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಅನುದಾನ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಒಟ್ಟು 05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ** ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-2 ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಂತೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.02.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.02.2026ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ರೂ 23.65 ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.41.04 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.**

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- II-A & IV-A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s) /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sr /Lot No.	Name & address of Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/s	Detailed description of the immovable/moveable property with known Encumbrances, if any	Total Dues.	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price, EMD, Last Date of EMD Amount and Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive /Physical)	Property Inspection date &Time
1. 2. 3.	**1.M/s. Sampaiah Service Station** having registered address at Plot No.69, Sy No.30 part Gowribidanur 2nd phase industrial area, Kudumalakunte village, Gauribidanur Taluk Chikballapur Dist-561208 **Represented by Its Proprietor Mr.Chethan S/o Chikkaiah** having residence address # 1235, 10th main 15th AA Cross, KHB Suryanarayana Phase-I Chandapura post, Anekal taluk, Bengaluru-560081. **2. Mrs.Susheela W/o.Chikkaiah**, having residence address at #1235, 10th main LIG-A, 15th AA Cross, KHB Suryanarayana Phase-I, Chandapura post, Anekal taluk, Bengaluru-560081. **3. S Kiran Kumar** having residence address at No.65, Bettahalli, Kadabagere post, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangaluru Urban-562130	**(Owner/Mortgagor name: Mrs.Susheela W/o. Chikkaiah)** All that part and parcel of the Residential House property situated at No.1235 LIG II Developed by the Karnataka housing board in development known as "Suryanagara" and situated at Iggaluru-Banahillu Villages of Anekal taluk Bangaluru Urban dist admeasuring East to west 12.00 Mtrs and North to south 9.00 Mtrs in all measuring 108.00 sq mtrs in the name of **Mrs. Susheela W/o.Chikkaiah, Bounded by:** East: Layout Road, West: House no 1252 LIG Type B, North: House no 1234 LIG Type A, South: House no 1236 LIG Type A.	**Rs. 1,37,86,540 (Rupees One Crore Thirty Seven Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty)** Plus further interest w.e.f. from **31-01-2026** thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment	**24/02/2026 From 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM**	**Reserve Price: Rs. 82,44,000/- EMD: Rs. 8,24,400 /- Last Date and Time of Receipt of EMD Amount: 23.02.2026 upto 5.00 PM Bid Increment Amount: Rs.25,000/-**	**Symbolic Possession**	**09-02-2026 to 23-02-2026 10.00 AM to 6.00 PM**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link **https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction** and online auction portal **https://baanknet.com.** For queries contact Number: 8291220220 & email ID. support.baanknet@psballiance.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on **Tel No. 081 36245779, Mobile: 8618333346**

Date: 07-02-2026, Place: Bengaluru **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR
bdr_eemi @yahoo.com eemibidar@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 08482 232080

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-1/Tender/2025-26/ 216 Date: 06.02.2026

KPP -Procurement Tender Details

1) Name of Works: As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work: As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor:As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 4) Amount put to tender: As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD:As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW-4 Only:**18-02-2026 Up to 17-00 Hours,** 7) Pre-Bid meeting Place, date & time KW-4 Only: Office of the, Ex.Engr. MI & GWD Divn. Partapnagar, Naubad, Bidar on **16-02-2026 at 11:00 AM,** 8) Last Date & Time for receipt of KW-4 Only : **20-02-2026 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 9) Date & time for opening Technical bid KW-4 Only : **23-02-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 10) Date & time for opening financial bid KW-4 Only: **25-02-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 11) For any clarification and details, office to be contacted Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar Phone/ Fax:08482 232080,12) Website details: KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
MI & GWD Division, Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/323/KSMC&A/2025-26

Ram Madhav's first meeting hints at campaign driven by BJP top brass

Suggestion to limit the MLA's choice to three candidates indicates how the high command wants to take over the electioneering and campaign, which has not gone down well with the city BJP MLAs, say multiple sources

GBA POLLS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, GBA election in-charge Ram Madhav, co-in-charge Satish Poonia, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, at a meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The three-member panel led by senior leader Ram Madhav, appointed by the BJP high command to oversee civic polls in Bengaluru, held its first consultative meeting in the city on Saturday and has ruffled feathers of the city's BJP MLAs. In the meeting with the city's party MLAs and MPs, Mr. Madhav reportedly said each MLA could suggest three candidates in their constituency to get tickets for the councillor polls, upsetting MLAs.

With the number of wards in the city going up to 369 spread over five corporations from 198 in the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), each Assembly constituency now has an average of 12 to 15 wards. Suggestion to limit the MLA's choice to three candidates indicates how the high command wants to take over the electioneering and campaign. This has not gone down well with the city BJP MLAs, multiple sources said.

The day Nitin Nabin took charge as the new BJP national president, he appointed a heavy-duty panel led by Ram Madhav and had former Rajasthan State unit president Satish Poonia for GBA polls, raising eyebrows.

While high command-driven micro-managed campaigns for civic polls in Hyderabad and Kerala had paid dividends to the party earlier, the BJP put the onus on the local leadership for local body polls in Maharashtra, including Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, the richest and politically the most significant local body in the country.

The fact that the high command appointed a veteran like Ram Madhav for the GBA polls was seen as a "no confidence" in the local leadership, which was evident in the suggestion made by him in the very first meeting, sources said.

March-end deadline

Meanwhile, Mr. Madhav suggested that polls in each of the five corporations will be held under a "prabhari" (in-charge) from the party, to ensure accountability. He reportedly said that the party must aim to finalise candidate selection by the end of March. Since elections are expected anytime after May 25, this will give the candidates at least two months to prepare on the ground, especially given there has been a five year gap when the elected council was not there, sources said.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said that there was anti-incumbency against the Congress, which has neglected the city, with "high talk of building tunnel roads, while being unable to fill potholes". He said the next round of meetings with Mr. Madhav will be held on February 28 and March 1.

Electrification work on for Bengaluru–Mangaluru Vande Bharat: Vaishnaw

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Assembly R. Ashok and BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra at a press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said that electrification work on the Hassan-Mangaluru section is currently under way, paving the way for the launch of the Bengaluru-Mangaluru Vande Bharat train service. Once electrification is completed, train services will be introduced on the Karwar-Mangaluru-Bengaluru route, significantly improving rail connectivity to Karnataka's coastal region.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP office in Bengaluru, Mr. Vaishnaw said, "Karnataka is witnessing major railway modernisation. This includes the redevelopment of 51 Amrit Bharat railway stations at an estimated cost of ₹2,110 crore, alongside the operation of 12 Vande Bharat trains in the State".

Referring to projects announced in the Union Budget recently, the Minister said that the proposed high-speed rail corridors connecting Bengaluru with Chennai and Hyderabad would enhance connectivity among three of South India's key economic centres.

"Once operational, the travel time between Bengaluru and Chennai is expected to reduce to 73 minutes, while the Bengaluru-Hyderabad journey would take around two hours," he said.

On the long-pending Bengaluru suburban railway project, Mr. Vaishnaw said that the work on all four phases is progressing. Dedicated suburban tracks will be built alongside existing railway lines, and a new design framework has been finalised to expedite execution of the project.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at a press conference on the Qualcomm campus in Bengaluru on Saturday. ANI

Vaishnaw tours semicon and chip firms in Bengaluru

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Information Technology, Electronics, Railways, and Information & Broadcasting, had a semiconductor and chip tour in Bengaluru on Saturday, covering some of the upstream and downstream players in the ecosystem.

He met and interacted with leaders and employees Texas Instruments (TI) and at Qualcomm, the upstream players in the semiconductor industry who are engaged in IC (integrated circuit) design and component manufacturing. He also met and interacted with Zetwerk Electronics, a Bengaluru-based downstream player in the semiconductor ecosystem offering electronics manufacturing services (EMS).

According to the Minister, semiconductor and chip design, for India, is a new industry which has scope for a multi-decade journey and investments in the sector may exceed $200 billion in the coming years as AI adoption accelerates and fast chips are redesigning the electronic landscape from traditional processing to intelligence-driven ultra efficiency.

In the City, Mr. Vaishnaw also officially opened Texas Instruments (TI)'s product research and development (R&D) center. This 550,000-square-foot R&D facility features a collaborative workspace dedicated to developing world-class chip designs. The center also houses an end-to-end reliability lab equipped with advanced testing capabilities for various environmental conditions, along with many other integrated circuit design labs.

Texas Instruments, a Texas-based semiconductor and chip design firm, entered India over 40 years ago by setting up its development centre in Bengaluru in 1985. Santhosh Kumar, president & managing director, TI India, said, "TI India's product development and design teams drive research and breakthrough innovations for customers worldwide."

2-nanometre Qualcomm chip unveiled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled a 2-nanometre semiconductor chip designed and developed by Qualcomm, a California-based semiconductor company, at its Bengaluru facility. This marks a significant needle movement in advanced semiconductor design in the country and a demonstration of the key role India has been playing in the industry-specific and AI-ready chip design activities.

According to the company, this reflects the strength of Qualcomm's Global engineering capabilities collaboratively with engineering development centers in Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad, representing one of the company's most advanced and skilled development footprints globally, as well as its largest engineering workforce outside the United States.

VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
Presents
THE HINDU TECH SUMMIT 2026
Co-Presented by sify
THE HINDU GROUP

Continuity Unbroken:
Building the Architecture of Resilience in a Connected World

This summit brings together visionary leaders, educators, and technologists to explore how learning, innovation, and governance converge to build a future that is stronger, smarter, and truly connected. Join us as we celebrate the power of education and the promise of innovation, creating a resilient world.

FEBRUARY 12 & 13, 2026,
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Scan here or visit
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Registration subject to confirmation.

DAY 01

Inauguration : 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Keynote & Special Addresses

Session 1 : 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM
From Classroom to Cosmos

Session 2 : 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Resilience by Design: Embedding Continuity into Organisational DNA using ISO 22301 & 27031

Session 3 : 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
Powering India's AI-Future: Data Centres, Capital, and the Race to Scale

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

Session 4 : 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Cyber Resilience in an AI-Driven World: Balancing Risk, Recovery, and Privacy

Session 5 : 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Data Privacy & Security in Biometric Travel Platforms

Session 6 : 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
The Role of Technology in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery

Session 7 : 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Resilient GCCs: Continuity and Compliance at Global Scale

Session 8 : 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Governance, Risk and Intelligence: The Next GRC Framework

DAY 02

Session 1 : 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM
AI-First Digital Transformation: Moving From Automation to Intelligence

Session 2 : 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Beyond Compliance: Leveraging ISO 27001 for Integrated Data Security Management

Session 3 : 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
AI, Academia & Resilience: Building Institutions & Talent for an Uncertain Future

Session 4 : 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM
Technology, Governance & Economic Growth: A State Perspective

1:45 PM – 2:30 PM LUNCH BREAK

Session 5 : 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM
From Campus To Corporation: Building Industry-Ready Talent for an AI-First World

Session 6 : 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Data Privacy as a Pillar of Resilience: Building Trust in a Digital Age

Session 7 : 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Engineering Continuity: How Integrated IT Services Turn Risk into Resilience

Session 8 : 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Bridging Academia and Industry: Building the Resilience Talent Pipeline

Session 9 : 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Data Security & Privacy in the Age of AI: Balancing Innovation and Compliance

Associate Partners: skylark, KBR, Tally POWER OF SIMPLICITY, virtusa
Realty Partner: G SQUARE PLOTS | VILLAS | APTS.
TV Partner: புதிய தலைமுறை
Digital News Partner: THE FEDERAL VOICE OF THE STATES
Knowledge Partner: CIO Association
Industry Partner: MADRAS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
Eco System Partner: Startup சிங்கம் SEASON-2
Gift Partner: nexus A GIFTING COMPANY

People's investments safe in MSIL chit fund: Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil, and others at the launch of the new software and mobile app of MSIL Chits in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday promised that people's investments are safe in chit funds of Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), a State government-owned entity.

Speaking at the launch of MSIL's new chit fund software and mobile application, the Chief Minister said MSIL has earned the trust of people over several decades. Emphasising the importance of a savings culture, he said savings help individuals during times of need. MSIL's chit fund system has been operational since 2005.

Mr. Siddaramaiah urged people, particularly women, to invest the money saved through government guarantee schemes. He noted that these schemes were implemented without discrimination based on caste or class.

Highlighting the need for security of investments, he said MSIL's chit fund offers strong assurance compared to private chit funds, where there is a higher risk of fraud. As a government institution, MSIL provides greater safety for investors' money. Though the returns are modest – around 5% – the focus is on ensuring financial security for the public.

Scaling up

Referring to the growth potential of the chit fund sector, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that while Kerala has chit fund transactions worth ₹47,000 crore with 45 lakh customers, Karnataka currently records only about ₹500 crore a year. MSIL aims to increase this figure to ₹10,000 crore.

In this context, a former managing director who had served in a Kerala-based institution has been appointed as a consultant for MSIL. He reiterated that savings invested for purposes such as education, healthcare, marriage, and housing remain secure with MSIL.

The newly launched software is expected to benefit customers by improving transparency and efficiency in MSIL's chit fund operations. The Chief Minister also expressed concern over people falling into debt traps with microfinance companies and said the Small and Micro Loan Ordinance, 2025, has been implemented to protect borrowers from harassment.

Ease of access

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil said the MSIL chit fund software and mobile app have been developed specifically to ensure ease of access and transparency in transactions.

MSIL has 27 branches, and there are plans to expand its presence to all districts and taluk centres across the State. To strengthen chit operations, MSIL would appoint agents, generating employment for over 10,000 people.

Special savings schemes will be introduced for women belonging to self-help groups, with *sakhis* of these groups being appointed as agents. In addition, hotels and retail grocery stores would also be enabled to function as agents, Mr. Patil said

Participants in the chit scheme can pay their instalments through UPI using the app, via the website, or online. They can also take part in bidding online, he added.

MSIL chairman Puttaranga Shetty said the organisation recorded a turnover of ₹3,882 crore in 2024-25 and posted a profit of over ₹122 crore.

Proposed Bill on menstrual leave in State put on the back burner

It was proposed to introduce the Bill during the last Winter session in Belagavi, but it was not done so; meanwhile, a Government Order on the one-day menstrual leave per month has been questioned in the Karnataka High Court

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The State government's plans on ushering in the Karnataka Women Well Being Leave Bill, 2025, seen as a pioneering legislation in the country, seems to have been put on the back burner for the time being amid opposition from several quarters.

The Bill was proposed to be introduced during the last Winter Session in Belagavi, even as a Government Order on the one-day menstrual leave a month had been questioned in the Karnataka High Court. The Bill, however, did not make it to the legislature.

"We have decided to put the Bill on the back burner due to opposition. It was also felt that school girls who are also covered in the Bill could be stigmatised if they avail themselves of the menstrual leave. It was felt that the Bill required wider consultation," sources in the government told *The Hindu*.

Sources also acknowledged that there was opposition from a few Ministers as well.

There has been opposition from several quarters to Karnataka's menstrual leave policy. FILE PHOTO

After the Cabinet cleared the Menstrual Leave Policy in November, 2025, applicable to women aged between 18 and 52, a subsequent GO brought the private sector under its fold. Later, it brought the government employees too under its ambit.

However, to make the policy legally stronger, a legislation, it was felt, was essential. That is because the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961, the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Beedi and Cigar Workers Act, 1966 and the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, which apply to workplaces do not have provision for menstrual leave.

Broader coverage

In fact, the government had proposed to remove the 18-year eligibility criteria to accommodate school/college students under the legislation, besides proposing fines for those violating the provisions, which was regarded radical.

Four months on, implementation of policy has been lackadaisical

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nearly four months after the government introduced the Menstrual Leave Policy and issued a GO, its implementation across industries has remained lackadaisical.

In the government sector, individual departments have started notifying the implementation. The Education Department notified the leave recently.

A large number of industries seem to be citing the ongoing case in the Karnataka High Court as the reason not to implement the leave policy right away.

Confusion

However, a Law Department sources argued: "The High Court in December has recalled a stay order on the GO, which effectively means that the GO is still legal."

According to a Minister, the court case seems to have caused confusion, and that it is likely the issue will be addressed in the Budget.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, in his Republic Day address, termed the paid menstrual leave policy of Karnataka as one of the "revolutionary decisions" in the country for the health and well-being of women.

While the first notification of November 12, 2025, brought only the private sector under the ambit, a subsequent order on December 2, 2025, covered the government employees.

According to trade union sources, though some industries have already implemented the policy, a large number of them have informed the unions that they would wait for the court order since the GO is under litigation.

"In some cases, though factories have implemented the policy, the menstrual leave is connected to attendance incentive that is provided to employees with full attendance in a month," sources said.

No penalty clause

The absence of any penalty clause in the GO on industries or individuals denying the menstrual leave is being seen as a loophole, making it difficult to implement. Besides, the government has not identified any department/agency to monitor the implementation.

"The Bill has monitoring provisions and provisions to levy a penalty of ₹5,000 for denying leave. The GO, in the absence of a legislation, is weak," a trade union source said.

Time will reveal if there will be change in leadership: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU/MYSURU

Amid a tussle over leadership in Karnataka, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has said "time will reveal whether there will be change in leadership" post the Budget presentation scheduled in March first week.

Mr. Shivakumar said this in Mangaluru on Saturday while responding to a question by presspersons if there will be a change in leadership after the 2026-27 Budget.

This comes a day after the Chief Minister's son and MLC Yathindra's yet another assertion that the Congress high command had sent a "clear signal" that there will be no leadership change in the State and that Siddaramaiah will continue in the post.

On Saturday, answering a question on his supporters aspiring to see him become the Chief Minister, Mr. Shivakumar said: "People have a dream, the MLAs have a dream, and you (the media) also have a dream. You should listen to what the party says."

Asked about some Dalit organisations in Chikkamagaluru demanding Home Minister G. Parameshwara be made the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister said: "His supporters are eager. There is nothing wrong in it. I can't say no to that."

In Mysuru, Dr. Parameshwara asserted that the party high command has found no confusion over leadership, and that Mr. Siddaramaiah will continue as the Chief Minister. He said the high command has not taken any decision regarding a leadership change and denied any knowledge of a power-sharing agreement.

"What I know is that the Congress Legislature Party has elected him (Mr. Siddaramaiah), and he is continuing as the Chief Minister," he told reporters in Mysuru on Saturday.

Reacting to Dr. Yathindra's statement, he said, "It is his statement. Decisions are taken by the high command, not by me or others."

Rank accorded

BENGALURU: The government has accorded the Minister of State rank to chairpersons of 54 boards, corporations and authorities with immediate effect.

Life certificate to be made must for Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has instructed the Chief Secretary of the State government to immediately review and take action on making the submission of life certificate mandatory for beneficiaries of the Griha Lakshmi scheme, one of the government's five guarantee schemes, similar to retired government employees who are required to submit life certificate annually to get pension.

The direction followed a request submitted by State Guarantee Authority vice-chairman and MLC Dinesh Gooli Gowda to the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Acting on the request, the Chief Minister asked the Chief Secretary to examine the matter. Under the scheme, ₹2,000 is being credited every month to the bank accounts of beneficiaries since June 2023. The scheme covers women identified as head of families in Antyodaya, BPL, and APL ration cards issued by the Food and Civil Supplies Department.

According to official data, financial assistance amounting to about ₹57,300 crore has so far been disbursed to 1,24,12,543 eligible beneficiaries.

In his representation, Mr. Gowda pointed out that while the details of deceased beneficiaries are periodically verified, there are instances where assistance continues to be credited even after the beneficiary's death. He stressed the need to prevent such leakages.

He urged the government to introduce a system similar to that followed for pension disbursement.

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.
OHPC
O/o Sr. GENERAL MANAGER, HIRAKUD HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT,
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PHONE: 0663-2950721(0), 2950765(R), E-Mail: srgmhps_burla@yahoo.co.in
CIN : U40101OR1995SGC003963
No.HHEP/Tech-W-52/Vol-XI/985 Date: 06.02.2026

TENDER CALL NOTICE No.HHEP-19/2026

Sealed tenders are invited in two part i.e.(i) Techno-commercial bid & (ii) price bid from the registered travel agencies / vehicle owners having commercial registration and having valid IT PAN, GST Regd. Certificate and experience of supplying hired vehicles to any Govt organization/ PSU / Industrial units in last 03 years.

Description of type of Vehicle	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Cost of Tender paper (non-refundable) in Rs.	EMD (Refundable) in Rs.
Deployment of different categories of hire vehicles to HHEP, Burla & GSPCL site office, Rourkela for a period of two years on 24 hours basis	2,28,80,240/-	Rs.11,800/- (Rs.10,000 + GST @18%)	2,28,850/-

• Sale of tender paper : 09.02.2026 (10.00AM) to 23.02.2026 upto 05.00PM
• Receipt of tender paper : 24.02.2026 upto 03.30PM
• Date & time of opening of tender: 24.02.2026 at 04.00PM
Further details like tender documents / terms & conditions (corrigendum/errata/addendum,if any), please visit our official website www.ohpcltd.com

Unit Head, HHEP, Burla
4001/5/2526 OIPR-4001/4007/1/25-26/0001

AYUSH DEPARTMENT
Dhanvanthri Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Phone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139,
e-mail: directorayush.eproc@gmail.com
No: AYUSH/3/PROC/2025-26 Date: 06-02-2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-tender in Two Document System invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bengaluru for the supply of Medical equipments and books under SCSP/TSP Scheme to Directorate of AYUSH subordinate Institutions as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under.

Calendar of Events

1.	The Tender document will be available from	06.02.2026 at 5:30 p.m.
2.	Last date for uploading tender documents through KPP Portal	16.02.2026 upto 4:30 p.m.
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	17.02.2026 at 5:00 p.m.
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	19.02.2026 at 11:30 a.m.

For further details may be viewed at above website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority)
Directorate of AYUSH, Dhanvanthri Road,
Bengaluru-09.
DIPR/CP/RO5504/AAPL/2025-26

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport
Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar
Phone: 0674-2300885, Email: - portsniwt.od@nic.in

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Bid Identification No.	Amount (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
01	Improvement of Jetty and Public Rain Shelter (Waiting Hall) at Janhikuda under Krushnaprasad Block of Puri District, Odisha.	DPIWT-32/2025-26	27.86 Crore
02	Improvement of Jetty and Public Rain Shelter (Waiting Hall) at Arakhakuda under Krushnaprasad Block of Puri District, Odisha.	DPIWT-33/2025-26	44.66 Crore

3.	No. of Covers	:	Double Cover
4.	Bid Cost	:	Rs.10,000.00 (Online)
5.	Period of completion	:	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal.	:	10.02.2026 to 25.02.2026 upto 05.00 P.M.
7.	Date & Time of Bid Clarification	:	10.02.2026 to 16.02.2026 upto 03.00 P.M.
8.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid meeting	:	17.02.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
9.	Last date / Time for receipt of Bids in the portal	:	25.02.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.
10.	Class of Contractor	:	"Special' & 'Super' Class Contractor.
11.	Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	:	26.02.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
12.	Name and Address of Officer Inviting Tender (OIT)	:	Director, Ports & Inland Water Transport, Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin-751023 Phone-0674-2390355, Fax-2396885. e-Mail:-portsniwt.od@nic.in

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal : **https//tendersodisha.gov.in .**
The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Director, Ports & IWT, Odisha
38001/6/2526 OIPR-38001/38035/1/25-26/0005

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport
Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar
Phone: 0674-2300885, Email: - portsniwt.od@nic.in

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Bid Identification No.	Amount (In Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5
01	Improvement of Jetty and Public Rain Shelter at Tinchini under Krushnaprasad Block of Puri District, Odisha.	DPIWT-33/2025-26	6.90 Crore	18 (Eighteen) months
02	Improvement of the Existing Jetty and Approach Road at Krushnaprasad Gada in Puri District, Odisha.	DPIWT-34/2025-26	6.98 Crore	11 (Eleven) months
03	Construction of Protection wall and Boundary wall at Krushnaprasad Gada under Krushnaprasad Block of Puri District, Odisha.	DPIWT-35/2025-26	6.15 Crore	11 (Eleven) months

4.	No. of Covers	:	Double Cover
5.	Bid Cost	:	Rs.10,000.00
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal.	:	10.02.2026 to 25.02.2026 upto 05.00 P.M.
7.	Date & Time of Bid Clarification	:	10.02.2026 to 16.02.2026 upto 03.00 P.M.
8.	Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	25.02.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.
9.	Date of opening of bid document (Cover-I)	:	26.02.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
10.	Date of document verification	:	Within five (05) working days from the date of Technical Bid (Cover-I) opening
11.	Date of transparent lottery process (if situation arises)	:	Intimation will be given through online
12.	Class of Contractor	:	"A" & "Special" Class Contractor
13.	Name and address of Officer Inviting Tender (OIT)	:	Director, Ports & Inland Water Transport, Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin-751023 Phone-0674-2390355, Fax-2396885. e-Mail:-portsniwt.od@nic.in

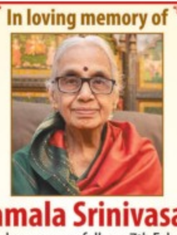
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place, **https//tendersodisha.gov.in .**
The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Director, Ports & IWT, Odisha
38001/5/2526 OIPR-38001/38035/1/25-26/0004

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

In loving memory of



Kamala Srinivasan

Passed away peacefully on 7th February 2026 at home in Bangalore.
She was 83 years old.

She is survived by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was a calm and supportive presence to everyone and taught them to always do the right thing.
She will be missed.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

15TH ANNIVERSARY

PROF. DR. SSK. MARTHANDAM
M.B.B.S, M.S.(ORTHO), D.ORTH, D.SC.(Hons)
D.O.B: 20/08/1941 - Eternity: 08/02/2011

An invincible determination can accomplish almost anything And in this lies your great distinction!

Missing U Deeply.... Family Members.

REMEMBRANCE

10TH YEAR FOND REMEMBRANCE

DOB: 18-7-1930 DOD: 08-2-2016

MATHAVAN G.,
ITI Retd.,
S/o Late M. Ganapathi
No. 114/3, Old Madras Road,
Near Swamy Vivekananda Ashram,
Ulsoor, Bangalore-560 008.

Inserted by:
SRINIVASA R.
99161 84689

INBRIEF

Fire at Telangana Forensic Lab damages case evidence

A fire broke out at the Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory in Nampally on Saturday. No casualties or injuries were reported in the incident. Preliminary findings suggest that the blaze may have been triggered by a short circuit. Another official said that enquiry with the staff revealed that the first floor housed physical evidence, including case-related samples and documents along with computer systems which were damaged in the fire. He added that the blaze did not spread to the second floor, where chemicals are kept.

Over 70 students fall sick in Andhra Pradesh tribal school

Over 70 students fell ill, reportedly due to food poisoning, after being served semi-cooked idly and sambar at the Government Tribal Welfare Ashram School at Devarapalli in the Polavaram district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. The Integrated Tribal Development Agency, Rampachodavaram, authorities shifted the affected students to the Rampachodavaram Area Hospital and nearby health facilities after they complained of vomiting and stomach ache.

HC rejects plea on entry of Christian priests into temple

Kerala court says the priests were invitees to an event at Sree Parthasarathy Temple and that the *tantri* had permitted their entry as guests; Bench cautions against use of rules to foment discord

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

> Statutes, rules and regulations ought not to be permitted to become instruments for fomenting discord or disharmony between different religions, castes, sub-castes or communities
> **KERALA HIGH COURT**

The Kerala High Court has dismissed a plea challenging the entry of two Christian priests into the Adoor Sree Parthasarathy Temple in Pathanamthitta district in 2023, alleging that it violated the Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (Authorisation of Entry) Act, 1965.

Pronouncing the order, the court said "statutes, rules and regulations ought not to be permitted to become instruments for fomenting disharmony among various religions, castes, sub-castes or communities." Instead, the legal framework must function as a unifying force that fosters mutual respect and coexistence, it noted.

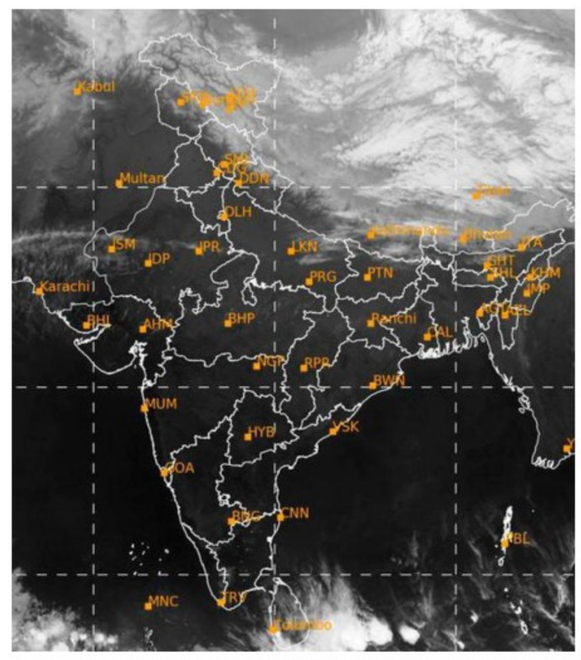
The court was considering a petition seeking to declare as illegal the entry of Zacharias Mar Aprem of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and another Christian priest during a Sreekrishna Jayanthi function on September 7, 2023. The priests had been invited to the temple as guests to attend the event.

The plea, filed by Sanil Narayanan Nampoothiri, a teacher, also sought directions to the Travancore Devaswom Board and the temple authorities to prevent the entry of non-Hindus into the shrine.

A Bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and K.V. Jayakumar said the priests were permitted entry as guests by the *tantri* (temple priest), and it was fundamentally distinct from an entry claimed as a matter of right. The court noted that the aim of the 1965 Act was to permit the entry of all classes of Hindus into temples and to prevent discrimination. However, while framing the rules, Rule 3(a) introduced a prohibition on the entry of non-Hindus, though the parent Act contained no such restriction, it said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: No weather warning

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.6	11.2	Kozhikode	—	35.0	23.9
Ahmedabad	—	32.5	19.0	Kurnool	—	33.9	18.4
Aizawl	—	26.4	11.8	Lucknow	—	25.0	10.3
Allahabad	—	26.6	10.6	Madurai	—	33.6	20.6
Bengaluru	—	30.1	16.3	Mangaluru	—	35.1	21.4
Bhopal	—	27.4	11.0	Mumbai	—	34.6	19.7
Bhubaneswar	—	32.3	17.7	Mysuru	—	31.4	16.8
Chandigarh	—	24.0	9.4	New Delhi	—	25.1	11.8
Chennai	—	31.2	20.9	Patna	—	25.0	13.8
Coimbatore	—	32.0	19.0	Port Blair	—	30.3	22.0
Dehradun	—	25.9	9.0	Puducherry	—	30.0	20.3
Gangtok	—	13.6	8.6	Pune	—	32.7	17.1
Goa	—	35.3	21.5	Raipur	—	30.1	15.8
Guwahati	—	27.0	13.7	Ranchi	—	24.4	10.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	16.0	Shillong	—	18.0	6.4
Hyderabad	—	31.7	17.0	Shimla	—	18.2	6.8
Imphal	—	25.2	4.7	Srinagar	—	11.7	3.0
Jaipur	—	27.8	12.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.7	23.7
Kochi	—	30.4	24.2	Tiruchi	—	30.7	20.6
Kohima	—	19.8	8.8	Vijayawada	—	33.2	18.0
Kolkata	—	26.2	14.2	Visakhapatnam	—	30.4	19.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.38	..55	22	... 182	...141	
Bengaluru	.28	116	23	 53	...115	
Chennai	...7	..14	.—	 93	...214	
Delhi	.13	219	43	... 261	...201	
Hyderabad	...6	9	45	... 118	...130	
Kolkata	...8	104	34	... 177	...135	
Lucknow	.11	..41	45	... 142	...118	
Mumbai	.27	109	43	... 169	...137	
Pune	..—	..73	60	... 247	...197	
Visakhapatnam	.37	..93	19	... 119	...146	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Mandideep, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 322 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Labour Dept. forms panel to finalise Labour Code rules and notifications

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

A file photo of workers staging a protest demanding the repeal of four labour codes, in Bengaluru.

The Karnataka Labour Department has formed four committees, one for each Labour Code, to revise and finalise the draft rules and issue the required notifications. All the four committees comprise officials from the State Labour Department.

The Labour Department recently published the draft rules for all four Codes. The draft rules will be open for feedback for 45 days.

"Committees have been formed under each Code to see if the draft rules require revisions, form the list of officials mandated by the Codes, prescribe parameters, safety standards, and so on," said a senior labour department official who is part of one of the committees. "Several notifications need to be issued under each Rule. For example, the Codes mandate the appointment of authorities such as inspector-cum-facilitator. Each such authority needs to be appointed by a government notification. The committees will prepare these notifications and send them to the government," the official elaborated, further adding that the committees will also be looking into the objections and comments on the draft rules.

The Labour Codes direct the State governments to appoint officials such as licensing authorities, appellate authorities, conciliation officers, certifying officers, and registering officers to enforce and implement the rules. According to senior officials, the notifications prepared earlier are being revisited now, and the list of authorities will be published after the rules are finalised.

In the context of reported directions from the Union government to implement the Codes from April 1, 2026, the Karnataka Labour Department officials are also in talks with the Centre regarding the software requirements for the implementation.

"There are two options. We can either develop our own software and do an API integration with the Central government portals, Shram Suvidha and SAMADHAN. Or we can ask the Union government to incorporate the State's requirements into the Central system. We are discussing both," said a senior official.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE
No:54683/CMC/HPT//Tender/2025-26Dated: 03.02.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT
SFC Special Grant 2028-19Tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in 1) Tender Last Date: 10-02-2026. TIME :4.00 PM. 2) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 12-02-2026 TIME: 4.30 PM. 4) OPENING PLACE OF TENDER: CMC HOSAPETE.
1)Indent No:DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54683 2)Name of the Work : Development of BT Road at AnantashayanaGudi Ward No 07 at Hosapete City 3) Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 67.50EMD Rs.143003.00/- any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours
Sd/-Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Hosapete Sd/-Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/516

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
Office of the Executive Engineer, No. 52, B.S.R. Layout, Konasandra, Jigani, Suryanagar 4th Phase, Bengaluru - 560105.
Email: khbsnrph4@gmail.com Ph: 080-24482702
PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the public that **STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, KARNATAKA** (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India) has issued the Environmental Clearance to **Karnataka Housing Board** vide **File No. SEIAA 126 CON 2025 and EC identification No. EC25B3812KA5496641N dated 27.01.2026** for Modification in the existing Environmental Clearance and Expansion of Development of Sites and Service Scheme at **Suryanagar 4th Phase, Swami Vivekananda Layout (Pradhana Mantri Township)** in Sy. Nos. 29/1A & Others of Konasandra Village, Sy. Nos. 41/1 & Others of Bommandahalli Village, Sy Nos. 1/1 & Others of Kadujakkanahalli Village, Sy Nos. 9/1 & Others of Indlawadi Village, Sy Nos. 1,2/1 & Others of Baggandoddi Village, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. The Environmental Clearance issued by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka can be accessed at the website **https://parivesh.nic.in**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
KHB, Suryanagar 4th Phase, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/5343/2025-26

Samagra Shikshana-Karnataka
State Project Director Office, Annexe Building of Commissioner, Dept. of School Education, Nrupatunga Road, Bengaluru-560001
No. SSK/TALP/PAB/1/2025-JDQ/65010 Date: 07.02.2026
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Samagra Shikshana Karnataka invites e-tenders through the e-Procurement Portal from eligible **Pan-India OEMs and OEM-authorized dealers for the Establishment of Smart Classrooms in 3862 Government Elementary, Secondary, Senior Secondary and KGBV Schools across the State for the year 2025-26. The scope of work includes supply, installation, testing, commissioning and training of Interactive Display Board, UPS-1 KVA Line Interactive with Battery and LED Projector equipments** as specified in the tender document. Details are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for submission of tender: **09.03.2026 up to 5:00 PM**
Sd/- State Project Director
Samagra Shikshana Karnataka, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Ballari.
No.: EE/RDWS&SD/B/AE/CMID /Tender.Nofi/2025-26/1609 Dated:05.02.2026
E-tender Notification (KTTP Act 2000)
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Ballari hereby calls the e-tender for execution works under CMIDP Head Ballari District Kampli Taluk "Construction of an Overhead Tank (OHT) in Korlagundi village OF Ward No. 1 and Ward No. 6, in Shridharagadde, in Jalibenchi, in Shriramarangapura and in Yerangalli villages. (Indent No: RWSSD/2025 26/WS/WORK_INDENT9832)" work of Public Procurement Portal for bidders who are registered by Public work department. The information regarding tenders will be made available in (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) website & Tender document download date 06.02.2026 The last date to receive the tender from eligible bidders is at 04.00 pm on 17.02.2026 Date of opening of Technical Bid is at 05.00 pm on 18.02.2026 and Pre-bid meeting is held at Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Circle Office, Ballari, at 11.30 am on 12.02.2026 For any tender related quarries or more information bidders can contact above said office or e-procurement help desk up to 12.02.2026 at 4.00 pm.
Sd/-Executive Engineer, RDW&S Divn. Bellary
DIPR/Ballari/976/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1 2 3 :Diferent Head : 2025-26/5002 Dated : 07-02-2026
Tender Notification
The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division, Gadag invites item wise tenders from eligible tenderers of 30 work of total amount of Rs. **619.28** Lakh (Min estimate amount: Rs- **1.58** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **150.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1, 2, 3 and 4, through http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/
Work Indent No : **Part-1** : **29553, 29552 -Call-3, 32924, 32926, 32929, 32922, 32930-ST, 32177, 32715, 31677/Call-2, 32711, 32178, 33055, 33068, 33071, 33061**
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **13-02-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **16-02-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **17-02-2026** (d) Opening of Financial Bid Date : **18-02-2026**
Work Indent No : **Part-2** : **32856-Category-1, 30963, 30969,**
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **25-02-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **26-02-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **27-02-2026**
Work Indent No : **Part-3** : **31697**
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **27-02-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **03-03-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date : **04-03-2026**. Financial Bid Date : **05-03-2026**.
Work Indent No : **Part-4** : **23895 Category-2A, 23875, 32862-Category-2A, 32864, 33048-SC, 33047, 33043, 33045, 24475-SC, 24476 Category-2A**
(a) Pre Bid Meeting Date : **12-02-2026** (b) Last Date for Clarification up to : **12-02-2026** (c) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **16-02-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (d) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **17-02-2026** (e) Opening of Financial Bid Date : **18-02-2026**
GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/636/2025-26

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ3:ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:21:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.02.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
ಅಮೃತ 2.0 ಯೋಜನೆ– 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜು ಟೆಂಡರ್ , ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನ (ಉತ್ತರ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ)– 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್, 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ– 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/ ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜು) ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಸಿವಿಲ್/ಯುಜಿಡಿ) ರವರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶಾಖೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192 234444 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಸೂಚನೆ : 1) ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 2) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಅದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
(1) ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 24.02.2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 (2) ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 25.02.2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 (3) ಫ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್(>100 ಲಕ್ಷ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: : 18.02.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 (4) ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 27.02.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ (5) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 16.02.2026 ಸಮಯ 17.30 (6) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 17.02.2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.30 ನಂತರ (7) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 19.02.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ
ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/720/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Finance Department, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
NOTICE
1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs.7000 crore (Rs.2,000 crore - Re-issue of 7.49% SGS 2035; Rs.2,000 crore - 6-Year 6-Month Tenure; Rs.2,000 crore 9-Year 6-Month Tenure; Rs.1,000 crore 10-Year Tenure)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through RBI (PDO), Mumbai
3. Date of auction : February 10, 2026
Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**
Sd/- (Ikram Shariff)
Joint Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department
DIPR/CP/5482/Zen/2025-26

Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru South District
District Health and Family Welfare Officer
Bengaluru South Dist., **Phone:** 080-29576058, **e-mail:** dhoramanagaram@gmail.com
No.: DHO/RAM/OS/GROUPD/01/2025-26 Date: 06.02.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Tender Notification)
E-tender Notification for The Employee of Outsource Group D, Driver, Nursing Officer, LAB Technologist Officer, Pharmacy Officer, DEO, Claim Executive Services for Health Institutions under District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Ramanagara.

1	Tender Number	DHFWS/2025-26/SE1918
2	Tender Commencement Date	Date: 06.02.2026
3	Approximate Value of tender	Rs. 2 Crore 80 Lakhs
4	EMD Amount	Rs.4,20,000/-
5	Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender	07.03.2026, 5.30 PM
6	Last Date for the Submission of the Objections against this tender along the Current Government Order (Objections after the Deadline will not be received	04.03.2026, 5.30 PM
7	Pre Bid Meeting Date & Place	**Date: 04.03.2026, 11:00 AM** District Health and Family Welfare Office, Railway Station Road, Ramanagara - 562159
8	Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bids	**Date: 09.03.2026, 11:00 AM**
9	Time and Date of Opening of Financial Bids	**12.03.2026, 11:00 AM**
10	Place of Opening of Tenders	District Health and Family Welfare Office, Bengaluru South - 562159 Contact No.: 8073333281

Sd/- District Health & Family Welfare Officer
Bengaluru South District
DIPR/BSD/623/SA/2025-26

:ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ:
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bagalkote
Town Development Authority, Division No: 01, Bagalkote-587102
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08354–295372 E-mail: btdadn1@gmail.com
No:EE/BTDA/Dn.01/PB-02/ Tender Notification No.07/2025-26/2396 Date:06/02/2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 07
(Through karnataka public Procurement Portal only
As per the tender procedure of KTPP Act, tender invited from Bagalkote Town Development Authority Bagalkote for work from KPWD registered eligible contractors pertaining to Indent No: 83/Call 3, Costing Rs. 3811.70 Lakhs Tender Invited in two Cover System.
The intending bidders for work details may login to karnataka public Procurement Portal website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The tenders can be submitted till 27.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM. technicial bids will be opened on 02.03.2026 at 11.00 AM (if possible). and financial bids will be opened on 05.03.2026 at 11.00 AM (if possible). Any other details can be obtained from this office in person or over Telephone Number 08354-295372.
Note : 1(Please note henceforth, the calendar of events published in Karnataka public Procurement Portal is final. 2) Please note henceforth, any changes in calendar of events Corrigendum/ Addendum will be published in karnataka public Procurement Portal only and will not be published in Newspaper.
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
BTDA, Division. No: 01, Bagalkote.
DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-568/KSMCA/2025-26

From Page One

India, U.S. unveil framework for deal

In a post on X, Mr. Goyal said the framework "reflects India's commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests and sustaining rural livelihoods by completely protecting sensitive agricultural and dairy products, including maize, wheat, rice, soya, poultry, milk, cheese, ethanol (fuel), tobacco, certain vegetables, meat, etc".

The joint statement said that the U.S. would reduce its tariffs to 18% on several imports from India, including textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, plastic and rubber, organic chemicals, home décor, artisanal products, and certain machinery.

Notably, the joint statement includes a specific clause that says that each country can modify its own commitments if the other country changes the agreed tariffs.

After the interim agreement is officially signed, the U.S. will remove tariffs on a wider range of goods, including generic pharmaceuticals, gems and diamonds, and aircraft and aircraft parts. In addition, the U.S. said it would remove tariffs on aluminium, steel, and copper.

Non-tariff barriers

The joint statement said that the two countries would also address non-tariff barriers that affect trade between them.

India has agreed to address non-tariff barriers on the import of U.S. medical devices and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) goods.

"Recognising the importance of working together to resolve long-standing concerns, India also agrees to address long-standing non-tariff barriers to the trade in U.S. food and agricultural products," the statement said.

The statement added that the two countries would work towards "further expanding market access opportunities" through negotiations on a more comprehensive Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

"The U.S. affirms that it intends to take into consideration, during the negotiations of the BTA, India's request that the U.S. continue to work to lower tariffs on Indian goods," the statement said.

The two countries also agreed to strengthen "economic security alignment" to enhance supply chain resilience and innovation through complementary actions "to address non-market policies of third parties", as well as cooperating on inbound and outbound investment reviews and export controls.

"India and the U.S. will significantly increase trade in technology products, including Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) and other goods used in data centers, and expand joint technology cooperation."

Digital trade

The two countries also committed to addressing "discriminatory or burdensome" practices and other barriers to digital trade, and to set a "clear pathway" to achieve mutually beneficial digital trade rules as part of the BTA.

Meghalaya coal mine blast toll rises to 27 as two more bodies recovered

Several workers are still missing at the February 5 blast site and search for them will continue, say officials; they are feared trapped inside labyrinthine tunnels branching out of 100-foot vertical pit at the illegal rat-hole coal mine in East Jaintia Hills

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Two more bodies were retrieved on Saturday from the illegal rat-hole coal mine in East Jaintia Hills district in Meghalaya, where a blast occurred on February 5. The death toll has now risen up to 27.

Officials said the bodies were retrieved during the rescue operations carried out by multiple agencies, including the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force.

While nine workers were undergoing treatment in Shillong, officials said several were still missing. They are feared trapped inside the labyrinthine tunnels branching out of the 100-foot vertical pit. Most of the victims have been identified. They were from Assam, Meghalaya, and Nepal.

Efforts continue: Operations under way at the illegal coal mine to rescue the trapped workers in East Jaintia Hills district in Meghalaya on Saturday. ANI

"We have arrested a few more people after a local court granted three days' police custody of two owners of the mine arrested on Friday. We have also closed down several mines that were in operation illegally and confiscated machines and explosive materials, including fuse wires," East Jaintia Hills Superintendent of Police Vikash Kumar told *The Hindu*.

The mine owners, accused in the dynamite blast leading to the deaths, are 36-year-old Forme Chyrmang of Jalaphet Pordung village and 42-year-old Shamehi War of Sutnga Pohwailong village.

Meanwhile, more organisations have slammed the State government for failing to stop illegal coal mining despite an April 2014 ban on rat-hole mining, imposed by the National Green Tribunal. The Supreme Court upheld the ban.

The Hynniewtrep Integrated Territorial Organisation (HITO) submitted a memorandum to Governor C.H. Vijayashankar, demanding a probe by a Central agency and fixing of responsibility "at the political level". It said the incident was a clear case of systemic governance failure, as illegal coal mining continued to thrive in East Jaintia Hills despite the ban.

The State Congress also demanded accountability at the highest political and administrative levels. It demanded strict and time-bound enforcement of the ban on rat-hole mining and adequate compensation to victims' families.

Shah calls for campaign to boost tourism in Kashmir

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

With Jammu and Kashmir still facing the aftershocks of the Pahalgam terror attack, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday called for a country-wide promotional campaign to attract tourists to the region and pledged the Centre's support in developing new tourism destinations.

"The enthusiasm of domestic tourists for J&K remains unwavering and must be capitalised on with a vigorous promotional strategy. The zeal of tourists from across the country to visit J&K has not diminished," Mr. Shah said. He was speaking at a high-level review meeting in Jammu, attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Mr. Abdullah has been pitching for the reopening of several tourist destinations that were closed after the Pahalgam attack.

Pawar family raises doubts about Ajit Pawar's death

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Days after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee raised questions about the death of Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar in an air crash, while his uncle Sharad Pawar called it an accident, the Pawar family has now voiced its own doubts about the manner of his death.

Ajit Pawar and his uncle headed rival factions of the Nationalist Congress Party.

Legislators from both factions have expressed concerns about possible foul play behind the January 28 crash, which left five people dead.

Ajit Pawar's nephew Rohit Pawar, an NCP (Sharad Pawar) MLA, said on Saturday that he would give a presentation outlining the family's doubts in Mumbai on February 10.

Fears of foul play

"There are several doubts in people's minds about the accident. If we speak with any aviation experts or pilots, several people have doubts. Even we have doubts. We want answers to them. I will raise the doubts. I hope we will get answers for it," he told presspersons in Baramati on Saturday.

Asked about NCP(SP) MP Bajrang Sonawane's allegation that a bomb had been planted on the plane, Mr. Rohit Pawar said, "I don't think there was a bomb directly. But there are other elements which can act like a bomb. Whether a political leader fitted it or not, we cannot say anything about it. But there are several doubts we have," he said.

Ajit Pawar

The Pawar family's statement comes against the backdrop of doubts raised by several Maharashtra leaders.

NCP legislator Amol Mitkari has raised questions about the blast, asking if there was any foul play involved.

Court-monitored probe

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut sought a court-monitored probe in Ajit Pawar's death. "Was Ajit Pawar carrying any important files about the BJP? The probe into his death should be monitored by the court. Is there any foul play in the accident," he asked.

He questioned Mr. Fadnavis over his statement that the politicisation of Ajit Pawar's death should stop. "Fadnavis has been warning everyone that nobody should politicise Ajit *Dada*'s death. Why is he threatening everyone? Why are you restless? Are you responsible for it? That is the question," he asked.

Mr. Sonawane has asked whether the engine exploded or whether a bomb was planted on the aircraft. Mr. Mitkari has raised doubts about the number of people in the plane, claiming that initial reports had said there were six people in the aircraft, but details were shared only about five people. He has also questioned why the pilot was changed at the last minute, and the claims about fog during the crash.

Analysing black box

Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murildhar Mohol said the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau and Directorate General of Civil Aviation were making rapid progress in the probe, including the analysis of the black box.

After Ajit Pawar's death in Baramati, Ms. Banerjee had sought a court-monitored probe in the matter.

However, on the night of January 28 itself, Mr. Sharad Pawar had issued a video statement calling it an accident, putting to rest the speculation around it.

51 Maoists surrender in Sukma and Bijapur

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Fifty-one Maoists, carrying a total reward of ₹1.61 crore, surrendered in Sukma and Bijapur districts of Chhattisgarh on Saturday, the police said.

Of them, 30 surrendered in Bijapur while 21 surrendered in Sukma.

Twenty-four of the surrendered Maoist cadres were women, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Bastar Range, P. Sundarraj said.

A total of 14 weapons, including AK-47 rifles, self-loading rifles, INSAS rifles, and barrel grenade launchers, were handed over to the government by the Maoists who surrendered.

In Sukma, where 21 cadres carrying a reward of ₹76 lakh had returned to the mainstream, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said, the Naxalite organisation had suffered a major setback. The surrendered cadres include active Maoists of the ranks of Divisional Committee Members and Area Committee Members, he added.

In Bijapur, Maoist cadres who returned to the mainstream, expressed their commitment to adopt the "path of peace, dialogue, and development", Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav, said.

Decisive action against Maoism is putting an end to fear in Bastar: President

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday said that due to the government's action on Maoism, the decades-old atmosphere of fear was coming to an end in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region.

Inaugurating the Bastar Pandum in Jagdalpur, Ms Murmu said the tradition of Bastar has always attracted people, but unfortunately, this region was plagued by Maoism for four decades.

"As a result, people here suffered immensely. The youth, tribals, and Dalit brothers and sisters were the worst affected. But due to the decisive action taken by the Government of India against Maoist terror, the atmosphere of insecurity, fear, and mistrust that prevailed for years is now coming to an end," she said.

The Gondi word Pandum means festival and the State government now celebrates Bastar Pandum as an annual fest and holds divisional-level competitions showcasing tribal arts and culture.

'Many surrendered'

The President noted that a large number of people in Chhattisgarh, who were previously involved in Maoist terror, had surrendered to the authorities.

President Droupadi Murmu being felicitated by Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai during Bastar Pandum 2026 on Saturday. PTI

She underlined that the government was ensuring that those who have laid down arms and returned to the mainstream lead normal lives.

Many development and welfare schemes were being implemented for them, she said.

Appreciating all those who had abandoned the path of violence and returned to the mainstream, Ms. Murmu urged them to have complete faith in the Constitution and democracy of the country. She said that they should have trust in the democratic system and move forward with hardwork and dedication.

The President emphasised that the welfare of the poor, deprived and backward classes was a special priority for the government.

Benefits for needy

"Through programmes like the PM-JANMAN Yojana and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, benefits of development are reaching the most deprived tribal villages," she said.

Apart from these Central schemes, Ms. Murmu also highlighted the State government's 'Niyad Nellanar Yojana' emphasising that it played a significant role in empowering the villagers. "Electricity, roads, and water facilities are becoming available in every village. Schools that had been closed for years are reopening, and children are attending classes," said the President.

Vijay Shah apologises for remarks on Army officer

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Minister Vijay Shah on Saturday once again apologised for his objectionable remarks against Indian Army officer Colonel Sofia Qureshi, saying the comments were made in the "excitement of patriotic fervour" following Operation Sindoor.

Mr. Shah's apology comes weeks after the Supreme Court, on January 19, directed the Madhya Pradesh government to decide within two weeks on a request to sanction to prosecute the Minister on the directions of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Mr. Shah, the Minister for Tribal Affairs, had on May 12 – days after India-Pakistan military clashes – made remarks at a public event in Mhow, in which he allegedly implied that Colonel Qureshi was a "sister" of the Pahalgam attack terrorists.

'Patriotic fervour'

In his latest statement, he said, "I have said this many times before, and I repeat it today. I had no intention of insulting any woman officer, the Indian Army, or any section of society." "The words were spoken in a moment of patriotic fervor, excitement, and passion," he said.

Tawde to be Mumbai's first BJP Mayor in 4 decades; Sena (UBT) skips contest

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The BJP's Ritu Tawde is set to become the next Mayor of Mumbai, making her the city's first BJP Mayor in four decades. She will be elected unopposed, after the Shiv Sena (UBT) decided against fielding a challenger, ending the Thackeray family's 25-year dominance over the richest civic body in the country.

The Mumbai mayoral election is scheduled for February 11, which is the last day to withdraw nominations.

Ms. Tawde and Sanjay Ghadi, who is the candidate of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, filed their nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively, at the municipal secretary's office.

The State Urban Development Department decided that the Mumbai Mayor's post would be reserved for a woman candidate from the open category, by a draw of lots.

UBT withdrawal

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) was expected to file a nomination against the BJP candidate, but decided against it after a meeting was convened at Mr. Thackeray's residence.

BJP leader Ritu Tawde, Mumbai mayoral candidate, and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Shankar Ghadi, deputy mayoral candidate, file their nominations in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

Former Mayor Kishori Pednekar, a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader in the BMC, described the development as a victory of Marathi *manoos*. "The BJP had to accept that Marathi *manoos* is a Hindu. If the Mayor of Mumbai is Marathi *manoos*, we won't do anything that amounts to a bad omen. Our victory in the elections was for Marathi *manoos*. We have accepted the arithmetic and will play the role of a strong Opposition and fight for Mumbai," she said.

Mumbai BJP president Ameet Satam said, "After 44 years, the BJP is going to install its Mayor in Mumbai in the Mumbai Municipal Corporation. The Mayor of Mumbai will work as per the vision of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji and as per the directions of our Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar to give a transparent administration to the Mumbai Municipal Corporation."

Ms. Tawde, who was earlier with the Congress, joined the BJP in 2012 and was elected as a corporator in the same year.

Reacting to Ms. Tawde's nomination, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) spokesperson Clyde Crasto said the decision to nominate a turncoat was an "insult" to BJP workers who worked hard at the grassroots level.

India-U.S. deal has no item that can hurt Indian farmers: Goyal

Commerce Minister says all sensitive agricultural items have been kept out of the deal, while India has opened up sectors that it needs imports for; several agricultural exports such as spices, tea, coffee, and coconut oil, will have zero duty, he adds

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Interim Agreement between India and the U.S. will not include any item that will hurt Indian farmers, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday, adding that there are several areas where Indian farmers and MSMEs have received duty-free entry into the U.S. market.

India and the U.S. issued a joint statement early on Saturday morning in which they announced that the two countries had reached a framework for an Interim Agreement, and would continue working together towards a more comprehensive Bilateral Trade Agreement.

While U.S. President Donald Trump has already signed an executive order removing the 25% tariffs the U.S. had imposed on imports from India for its trade in Russian oil, Mr. Goyal said that another executive order was expected next week that would reduce the remaining 25% reciprocal tariff to 18%.

> Some items will see tariffs being removed immediately, while others will see tariffs removed in a phased manner, while some others will also see quota-based tariffs... It is big win for India that the U.S. has agreed to provide us with various ICT products that we need
>
> **PIYUSH GOYAL**
> Commerce Minister

Centre says India has cut or removed tariffs on items it needed and did not produce, or those it produced but not in enough quantities

"We have not included any item where any Indian farmer will be hurt," Mr. Goyal said at a press conference later in the day.

"All sensitive items have been kept out of the deal. No genetically modified items will enter India, and no tariff relief has been given [to the U.S.] on meat, poultry, dairy, soya bean, maize, rice, wheat, sugar, millets, fruits such as bananas, strawberries, cherries, and citrus fruit, green peas, *kabuli chana*, *moong*, oilseeds, ethanol, and tobacco."

How India will benefit

He further listed out a number of other sectors that would see duties on exports to the U.S. being reduced from 50% to zero.

These include gems and diamonds, pharmaceutical products, aircraft parts, machinery parts, generic drugs, pharma products, some auto parts, gems and diamonds, platinum, clocks and watches, essential oils, home decor items such as chandeliers and lamp parts, some inorganic chemicals, and some paper, plastic, and wood items.

"Several agricultural exports will see zero duty from 50%, such as spices, tea, coffee, copra, coconuts and coconut oil, vegetable oil, areca nut, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, several fruits and vegetables, such as avocados, bananas, guavas, mangoes, kiwis, papaya, mushrooms, material for vegetable plating, vegetable sap, vegetable roots, cereals like barley, some processed foods," Mr. Goyal added.

Some tariffs reduced

The Commerce Minister acknowledged that India had reduced or removed tariffs on items that it needed and did not produce, or those that it produced but not in enough quantities.

"Some items will see tariffs being removed immediately, while others will see tariffs removed in a phased manner, while some others will also see quota-based tariffs," Mr. Goyal said.

These items include apples, distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), wines and spirits (with a minimum import price), pista, walnuts, almonds, some industrial production inputs, many medicines for cancer treatment, heart treatment, neurological treatment, some cosmetics, organic and inorganic chemicals, several products related to computers, and several pieces of medical equipment.

"It is big win for India that the U.S. has agreed to provide us with various ICT [information and communication technology] products that we need," the Union Minister added.

Trade deal agreement is surrender to U.S. by Modi government: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday targeted the Narendra Modi government over the joint statement on the interim trade agreement framework with the United States, saying the government had surrendered before the U.S.

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, in a post on the social media platform X, said the joint statement was opaque unless it is read with several previous U.S. orders.

"One thing is clear: the framework deal is heavily tilted in favour of the U.S. and the asymmetry is obvious," Mr. Chidambaram said. "How is this 'framework for an Interim Agreement' a matter of celebration?"

The U.S. will now monitor whether India is importing oil from Russia or not, the Congress's communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"If the U.S. decides India has imported Russian oil directly or indirectly the extra 25% tariff penalty is back. This is truly extraordinary. And the Modi govt has accepted it!! Naam Narender, Kaam Surrender," Mr. Ramesh posted.

> One thing is clear: the framework deal is heavily tilted in favour of the U.S. and the asymmetry is obvious
>
> **P. CHIDAMBARAM**
> Former Finance Minister

In another X post tagging U.S. President Donald Trump, Congress's Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari asked if India had specifically agreed to not buy Russian oil. "And this adds insult to injury," Mr. Tewari said.

Addressing a press conference on the same issue, Pawan Khera, who heads the Congress's publicity wing, said India would soon become a dumping ground for American products, hurting the interests of the farmers and small and medium industries here. "This deal is a betrayal to all that India stands for and all that India stood for over the last 75 years. This is not a deal which is in our interest. This is a total surrender by none other than Narender," Mr. Khera said.

"I do not want to call it a deal, as a deal is amongst equals and you sit across the table and negotiate. A deal cannot be with a gun held to your head... It is blackmail, it is a surrender," he said. "The lives and livelihoods of 72 crore of India's farmers and farm labourers have been put at stake by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government," Congress member in the Rajya Sabha Randeep Singh Surjewala said.

"Now, America's corn (dried distiller's grains), soya bean, jowar (red sorghum), nuts (almonds, walnuts, pistachio, etc.), fresh and processed fruits shall all be imported into India, devastating India's farmers and farm produce," Mr. Surjewala said.

Farmers' body seeks Goyal's resignation, asks Modi to desist from signing U.S. deal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As soon as Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal explained the details of the India-United States bilateral trade agreement, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) demanded his resignation. Leaders of apple and cotton growers said any relaxation to the import of cotton will be disastrous for States such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Talking to reporters at a press conference here on Saturday, the leaders of the SKM said the framework for the interim agreement on U.S.-India trade is a total surrender before the multinational giants of the U.S. agriculture sector. Particularly citing the inclusion of dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products in the joint statement, leaders of the SKM said control of the animal feed market will be completely monopolised by U.S. companies.

SKM urges farmers to join strike on Feb. 12 as a 'befitting reply to the anti-people Modi government'

The leaders urged farmers to join protest demonstrations on February 12 and support the general strike of workers as a "befitting reply to the anti-people Modi government".

They said the framework, and claim of Mr. Goyal that the agriculture and dairy sectors are out of the deal was wrong. "Dairy products are part of the FTAs signed with the U.K., New Zealand and European Union and the fresh revelations have undoubtedly proved the Commerce Minister is consciously propagating falsehood and betraying the farmers and the entire people. SKM considers the role of Commerce Minister as a traitor and demands his immediate resignation. Also, SKM demands the Prime Minister to desist from signing the India-U.S. Free Trade Agreement or face massive pan-India united mass struggles," they said.

They added that the U.S. tariff on Indian goods has actually risen from zero to 3% in 2023-24 to 18%, while Indian tariff rates on U.S. agriculture products that stood at 30% to 150% are now down to zero. "This will make Indian agriculture hang by the noose of U.S. MNCs," they said.

Leader of Apple Farmers Federation of India and J&K MLA M.Y. Tarigami said the deal will have a disastrous impact on the economy of Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. "...the Centre does not care about farmers here and is working for their masters in the United States," he said.

Trump cancels 25% tariffs, says India committed to buy oil from U.S. and stop supply from Russia

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India has "committed" to stopping buying Russian oil, and already taken "significant steps" towards it, U.S. President Donald Trump said while rescinding the 25% punitive tariffs imposed on India in August 2025.

The startling claim, which was not denied by the government on Saturday, was made in an executive order issued simultaneously with the India-U.S. joint statement on an interim trade agreement framework, and appeared to be a condition for removal of the punitive tariffs.

Mr. Trump said the tariffs would return if India "resumes" oil imports from Russia, and that India would buy U.S. energy, which former Indian diplomats criticised, calling it "plain bullying" by a "hegemonic America".

Iran link

In a separate order, Mr. Trump said that any country engaging in trade with Iran would draw penalty tariffs, formalising a threat he had made in January on social media.

"India has committed to stop directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil, has represented that it will purchase United States energy products from the United States, and has recently committed to a framework with the United States to expand [defence] cooperation over the next 10 years," said Mr. Trump explaining his decision to cancel the 25% tariffs levied on August 6 last year.

Donald Trump

"I have determined that India has taken significant steps to address the [Russian issue] and to align sufficiently with the United States on national security, foreign policy, and economic matters," he added, deputing Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick to "monitor" India's compliance on Russian oil, and threatening to "reimpose" 25% duties if it did.

Mr. Trump's orders and claims that India has already accepted his terms, put a dampener on the otherwise celebratory mood in government over hammering out a joint statement to work towards a trade agreement, and the Ministries of Commerce and External Affairs refrained from commenting directly.

Slamming the U.S. for the conditional order, former Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal said Washington was introducing "extraneous geopolitical issues" into the bilateral trade deal. "India's oil trade with Russia or trade with Iran have nothing to do with a bilateral trade deal with the U.S.," Mr. Sibal told *The Hindu*.

"The U.S. is a hegemonic power, and has the power to enforce such conditions," said former Ambassador to the EU and Nepal, Manjeev Puri.

At a press conference Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal refused to comment on the issue of oil imports, deferring to the MEA.

When asked, the MEA spokesperson referred to his statement earlier in the week, that "diversifying energy sourcing in keeping with objective market conditions and evolving international dynamics" is at the core of the government's strategy.

India is seen as a trusted partner for growth, says Modi in Malaysia

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India was seen as a "trusted partner for growth", and it was reflected in the recent trade deals it has agreed with various countries, including the U.K., U.S. and EU. Addressing a community programme in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Modi said that the Indian diaspora continued to serve as a strong bridge between India and Malaysia.

Referring to the trade deals India agreed with various countries, he said India was seen as a "trusted partner for growth". "Trust has become India's strongest currency," Mr. Modi said, citing trade deals with the U.K., the UAE, Australia, New Zealand, Oman, the EU and the U.S.

"I am grateful for the warmth of the Indian diaspora in Kuala Lumpur. Our diaspora continues to serve as a strong bridge between India and Malaysia," he said.

The Congress criticised the Prime Minister saying he had called off his last visit to Kuala Lumpur in October as he did not want to be face-to-face with U.S. President Donald Trump.

"In late October 2025, the Prime Minister was expected to visit Kuala Lumpur. It had been announced but at the last minute, Mr, Modi called it off because he did not want to come face-to-face with President Trump who was also to be there at the same time. So Mr. Modi settled for a virtual summit meeting with ASEAN leaders," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

'Pappu Yadav arrested over political vendetta to silence those seeking accountability'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday described the arrest of Independent Bihar MP Rajesh Ranjan, popularly called Pappu Yadav, as "an act of political vendetta" aimed at silencing voices demanding accountability, and linked it to the controversy over the death of a NEET aspirant in Patna.

In a post on X, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said Mr. Yadav had stood up as the voice seeking justice for the student, whose death has triggered allegations of sexual assault and a cover-up.

"This is not politics; it is a question of justice. It is a question of the honour and safety of Bihar's daughters," he said. "His arrest today is clearly an act of political vendetta, aimed at intimidating and silencing every voice that demands accountability," he added. Mr. Gandhi said the suspicious death and the developments that followed had once again "exposed the deep rot" in the system. He further alleged a broader pattern behind such incidents.

Rahul Gandhi

"The most alarming fact is that this incident does not appear confined to a single case. It points towards a terrifying conspiracy and a dangerous pattern, where more daughters are falling victim, and those in power sit with eyes shut to this horrifying reality," he added.

The aspirant was found unconscious in a girls' hostel last month. She died at a hospital on January 11 after remaining in a coma for several days. Her family has alleged sexual assault and an attempt to cover up the case. The Bihar government has since recommended a CBI probe. The matter was earlier being investigated by a Special Investigation Team.

VISAKHAPATNAM METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
"e"- Procurement Tender Notice
VMRDA Visakhapatnam invites the following tender on **"e" Procurement Platform "PREPARATION OF CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT PLAN for DEVELOPMENT OF KAILASAGIRI AND PERIPHERAL AREAS WITH AN INTEGRATED WILDLIFE, AQUATIC LIFE & ECO- RECREATIONAL DESTINATION AT VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH"** with last date 21/02/2026 03:00 PM for further details is login **www.apeprocurement.gov.in**
Sd/-Metropolitan Commissioner, VMRDA

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED E - TENDER NOTICE
O/o the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Nedumkandam, Idukki.
E-Tender ID No. **2026_KSEB_826640** PAC: **Rs.1,98,79,969.74/-**
Last Date: **11.02.2026 03.00 pm**
O/o the Executive Engineer,Transmission Division, Kaniyambetta, Wayanad.
E-Tender ID No. **2026_KSEB_834207_1** PAC: **Rs.1,49,67,807/-**
Last Date: **18.02.2026 03.00 pm**
Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** and **www.kseb.in**
Ref : PR/MC1/E600 - E-tender/2026

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited for supply of (1) 3,000 Tins (each tin 15kgs net) of Gingelly oil (2) 7,500 Kgs of Sealing wax (3) 1,00,000 nos of Laminated Die Leaf Buffet Plates (4) 2,50,000 Kgs of Sojji (Ravva) through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams,. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**. For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555, FAX No: 0877-2264554.**
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.389) Date:07-02-2026 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
Letter No.:645 Date:4/2/2026
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GePNIC e_Procurement Notice
1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Road Works - 7 Nos.**
2. Class of Contractor : **"B", "A" & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Various from Rs.118.76 Lakhs to Rs.999.13 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	**CCERWCSBD - Online - 45/2025-26**	**10.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.**	**02.03.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.**	**27.02.2026 up to 2.00 P.M.**	**05.03.2026 at 11.00 A.M.**	**To be intimated separately**

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.
25001/41/2526 OIPR-25001/25182/1/25-26/0041

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o The Superintending Engineer (H-CITI&SNDP), SRCGKS(HQ), GHMC, Hyderabad
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Tender Notice No.19/SE(H-CITI&SNDP)/SRCGKS(HQ)/GHMC/2025-26-2nd call, Dt: 07.02.2026

Item No.	Name of Work:	Estimate Amount
1.	**"Construction of 6 lane bi-directional Grade Separator for through traffic covering three junctions namely Mailardevpally, Shamshabad Road & Katedhan junctions under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)/ Turnkey Basis"**	**Rs. 345.00 Crores**
	Total	**Rs. 345.00 Crores**

S.No	Events:	Date and Time
1.	Start date	10-02-2026 from 03.00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	20-02-2026 at 03.00 PM Location: O/o Chief Engineer (H-CITI, Designs & Admin), GHMC 6th Floor, GHMC Head Office Tank Bund, Hyderabad
3.	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	27-02-2026 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Opening of Technical bid	27-02-2026 after 3.30 PM
5.	Opening of Price bid	28-02-2026 after 04.00 PM

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit **www.tender.telangana.gov.in** to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to **sesrcgks1@gmail.com.**
Address of the officer concerned Sri .B.L.Srinivas Rao, SE(H-CITI&SNDP), 9154768808. Superintending Engineer (H-CITI&SNDP), SRCGKS (HQ), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement ***https://tender.telangana.gov.in.***
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (H-CITI&SNDP), SRCGKS(HQ), GHMC
DIPR R.O.No.15114-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 07.02.2026

INBRIEF

Shia Muslims hold protests in J&K over blast in Islamabad

Street demonstrations, mainly by Shia Muslims, were held in parts of Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday to condemn the killing of 31 Shia worshippers inside a mosque in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on Friday. They raised anti-Pakistan slogans in Baramulla's Pattan and Bandipora's Shadipora areas. "At a time when Muslims across the globe are under attack, Shia Muslims are targeted in Pakistan. What could be more shameful and condemnable?" a protester said. Aga Syed Hassan al-Mousavi al-Safvi, president of the Anjuman-e-Sharie Shian J&K, said "We demand immediate action from the Pakistani government to protect its Shia citizens".

Tax Dept. releases draft rules, forms for new Income Tax Act

The tax department on Saturday released draft rules and forms under the new Income Tax Act, 2025, which proposes to simplify the provisions and reduce compliance burden for ease of understanding and make it taxpayer-friendly. A new and simplified Income Tax Act, 2025, which will replace the over six-decade-old Income Tax Act of 1961, will come into effect from April 1. The department has sought comments from stakeholders on the draft Income-tax Rules, 2026, by February 22. Thereafter, the rules and forms under the new Act will be notified. The draft Income-tax Rules, 2026 contains 333 rules and 190 forms, the I-T department said. PTI

Building collapses in Kota; rescue operation under way

A three-storey building collapsed in Rajasthan' s Kota on Saturday night, sparking fears that several people may be trapped under the debris, an official said. The building is locate in the Talwandi area, and it had a restaurant. Police and rescue teams rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. So far, five people have been pulled out from the rubble and shifted to hospital, officials said. According to initial information, some customers and employees were present in the restaurant at the time of the collapse. Collector Piyush Samaria told reporters that teams were deployed immediately after the collapse. PTI

AAP leader murder case: one held after exchange of fire

A man was arrested from Amritsar on Saturday in connection with the killing of AAP leader Lucky Oberoi in Punjab's Jalandhar, the police said. The accused, identified as Shaminder Singh, a resident of Mithapur, was arrested following a brief exchange of fire in the Khasa area of Amritsar, they added. A .30-bore pistol was seized from his possession, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Border Range) Sandeep Goel said. The accused, who was driving a two-wheeler when he was intercepted by a police team, has a criminal history. Oberoi, 43, was shot by an unidentified assailant outside a gurdwara in Jalandhar's Model Town area on Friday. PTI

SUDOKU

				5		4		
	2	9						1
3		8	1					
2			7	3			1	
		5	2		6	8		
	7			1	8			4
					5	7		3
7						9	8	
		2		9				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6785 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	1	2	7	9	3	8	4
9	7	4	3	1	8	2	6	5
8	3	2	5	4	6	1	7	9
1	5	3	8	9	7	6	4	2
6	8	7	4	2	1	5	9	3
2	4	9	6	5	3	8	1	7
4	9	8	1	3	5	7	2	6
7	1	5	9	6	2	4	3	8
3	2	6	7	8	4	9	5	1

SIR rules on parent mapping leave those raised in orphanages, charity homes in a fix

Election Commission officials have said the care home's name should be entered in the column for parents, but the lack of specific guidelines has led to chaos on the ground; with no lineage proof, State must provide the required documentation, say those who fall in the 'unmapped' category

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Mohammad Palash Shekh is in a fix. Rescued from a railway station and brought up in the government-run Subhayan Home for Boys in Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal, he had to leave the shelter once he turned 18. He has a voter ID card and Aadhaar proving his own identity, but has no way to provide any evidence of his parents, as required for the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls currently under way in West Bengal and 11 other States and Union Territories.

Unable to "map" either of his parents to the voters' list of 2002, when the SIR was carried out previously, Mr. Shekh falls into the "unmapped" category, and has now got a hearing notice from poll officials.

With no lineage to claim in the SIR, it is up to the State to provide him with the necessary documentation, he says, failing which he might be disenfranchised.

Under SIR rules, those born between 1987 and 2004 need to furnish their own documents and those of one of their parents, while those born after 2004 need to show their own documents and those of both their parents if they are unmapped.

Even if someone wants to register as a fresh voter by filling Form 6, a separate declaration has to be signed regarding the mapping of parents to the 2002 list.

Many people like Mr. Shekh who were brought up in State-run orphanages and charity homes are now facing the same conundrum, with no way to map their parents as required by the rules. Most wards of the State had to leave their

People wait during hearings under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Kolkata on Saturday. PTI

shelter homes once they turned 18, and either have no parents or relatives or are not in touch with them.

A 2016 study by the Ministry of Women and Child Development says there are approximately 9,500 child care institutions (CCIs) in India (including government-run homes and NGO-supported homes), housing nearly 3.7 lakh children at any given time. Every year, thousands of "care-leavers" turn 18 and transition out of these homes.

Election Commission officials have earlier said that in case of an orphan brought up in institutions, the orphanage's name will be entered in the column for parents.

However, there are no specific guidelines regarding this, so what is unfolding on the ground is very different.

Under Section 53 of the Juvenile Justice Act, CCIs are required to assist children with regard to birth registration and to obtain a proof of their identity, where required. In many cases though, such children are left to fend for themselves when they turn 18.

Take the case of Bharat Jatiya, who was picked up by the police in Ajmer as a young child. Abandoned by his parents, he was brought up at various shelter homes and completed Class 12 from the Resource Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) in Jaipur.

Though Mr. Jatiya has Aadhaar and Class 10 and 12 certificates, he has not been able to submit Form 6 to register as a voter under the SIR as he has to fill in a separate form with a declaration about his parents' names in the 2002-03 list when the last SIR was conducted.

The EC's normal rule for orphans seeking to register as new voters says: "If an orphan is brought up from infancy in an orphanage and is not in a position to give the name of either of his parents, his name shall be entered into electoral roll, and under the column meant for father's/mother's/husband's name, the name of the orphanage shall be mentioned."

Under the SIR, however, even when fresh voters are being registered using Form 6, a separate declaration has to be signed regarding the mapping of parents to the 2002 list.

"There are many who find themselves in this 'unmapped trap' with these rules. These people are born in this country and the government needs to consider them as their citizens," says Vijay Goyal of the RIHR.

Four Indian students in Russia injured in knife attack

Press Trust of India
MOSCOW

At least six people, including four Indian students, were injured on Saturday in a stabbing attack at a university in Russia.

According to preliminary reports, a teenager armed with a knife entered a dormitory of the State Medical University in Ufa in the Bashkortostan Republic. He attacked the students living there and stabbed several of them, the Interior Ministry said. The attacker resisted arrest, during which two police officers were stabbed. The attacker also inflicted harm on himself.

Calling it an "unfortunate incident", the Indian Embassy here said, "Several persons including four Indian students have been injured." The Embassy said it is in touch with the authorities, and officials from the Consulate in Kazan are en route to Ufa to provide assistance to the students.

People scramble for last-minute SIR hearing amid chaos in West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Even as hearing for special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls nears the end in West Bengal, woes of people scrambling to appear for the last-minute hearing continue across the State. Saturday (February 7) marked the last day of hearing of notices issued under the category of "logical discrepancies".

Long queues were seen outside hearing centres across the State, and stories of tragedies surfaced from some places. Mohammad Yasin Ansari, a High Madrasah teacher from Gazole in Malda, lost his wife and child on the way to a hearing centre in a road accident.

However, he had to attend the hearing, leaving the bodies in a State-run hospital.

The Trinamool Congress highlighted the plight of the madrasa teacher in a social media post.

"This incident exposes the true nature of the SIR process far more clearly than any statistic ever could," the ruling party posted on social media.

Long queues seen during hearings under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Nadia, West Bengal on Saturday. PTI

There have been reports of similar incidents during the SIR hearings, including at Howrah where bereaved family members attended the hearing after the death of their kin in an accident.

EC indifference

The Trinamool Congress also highlighted that mothers with newborns were made to stand in SIR queues for three to four hours after travelling long distances in Malda. "@ECISVEEP conducted this exercise: indifference instead of sensitivity, poor preparation instead of care, and a complete disregard for basic human needs," the party posted on social media.

Meanwhile, allegations of hooliganism at SIR hearing centres continued on the last day of hearing. Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday accused Trinamool supporters of hooliganism at a hearing centre.

"The terror and hooliganism of the Trinamool's lumpen elements continue at the SIR (summary revision) hearing centres. Similar to Farakka and Chakulia, Trinamool miscreants have unleashed havoc inside the Baduria BDO office in North 24 Parganas district," Mr. Adhikari said.

The BJP leader said that the "State government has deliberately thrown law and order to the winds so that Trinamool activists do not face any obstacles in their illegal activities of inserting bogus names into the voter list ."

Officials seek one week's extension

KOLKATA

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal, Manoj Kumar, on Saturday sought a one-week extension from the Election Commission to complete the special intensive revision of electoral rolls, as hearings are pending in 11 of the State's 294 Assembly constituencies.

Assam orders 3 declared foreigners to leave India

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Three people declared non-citizens by a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) have been ordered to leave Assam and India within 24 hours of receiving a notice from the government.

The orders, issued by the Karbi Anglong District Commissioner under Section 2 of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act of 1950, were issued on February 2, after the FT concerned adjudged them foreigners. The trio are Mohammad Faizul Haque of Manja Nadipar village, Mohammad Fakaruddin of Jadav Rai Grant village, and Mohammad Rafiqul Ali of Hidim Teron Basti.

They have been asked to exit the country via Dhubri, Sribhumi, or South Salmara-Mankachar districts, bordering Bangladesh.

District authorities also ordered confiscation of documents and cancellation of their Aadhaar.

Cheetah 'Aasha', left, has given birth to five cubs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. PTI

Five cubs born to Namibian cheetah at Kuno National Park

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

Five cheetah cubs have been born to a Namibian cheetah Aasha in Kuno National Park (KNP) of Madhya Pradesh, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav said on Saturday .

India's cheetah population is now 35, including 24 Indian born cubs and 11 translocated adults.

"Kuno welcomes the birth of five cubs. Aasha's legacy leaps forward – India welcomes her five adorable cubs on February 7, 2026 at Kuno National Park," Mr. Bhupender Yadav announced on X.

Kuno Field Director and Project Cheetah Director Uttam Kumar Sharma told *The Hindu* that all five cubs are healthy and doing well, and that a team is keeping a watch on them from a distance.

J&K govt. drops ₹416-crore Dal Lake resettlement project after 17 years

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir government has abandoned the ₹416.72-crore resettlement plan for Dal Lake dwellers. To a question from National Conference (NC) legislator Tanvir Sadiq, it told the J&K Assembly that the project achieved "only 27 per cent progress" in 17 years.

The plan was conceived by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi to preserve and restore the lake, which attracts tourists from across the globe. The Singh government approved the plan in 2009.

Incomplete project

The project sought to relocate and rehabilitate around 9,000 families from the Dal Lake ecosystem to tackle growing pollution, mitigate impact on aquatic life and preserve the shrinking lake.

However, in the face of poor implementation of the plan and inability to offer basic infrastructure at the location of resettlement, the J&K government has decided that 58 existing hamlets within the Dal Lake will be developed as 'eco- hamlets'.

Redesigning development: The J&K government decides to make 58 existing hamlets within Dal Lake as eco hamlets. FILE PHOTO

"Work on six hamlets has already been taken up under the UT Capex budget, with one - Kachri Mohalla - already completed as a modern village," the J&K government told the Assembly.

According to the new plan, an in-situ conservation model will replace the old scheme, and "residents will be allowed to stay in 'eco-hamlets' developed within the water body".

The shift in the policy has come in the wake of a report submitted by a high-level committee, headed by the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, last year. It described the Dal Lake dwellers as an "integral part of the lake ecosystem".

The committee called for the continued stay of these dwellers on the lake, while also stating that it was "equally important to keep it [the lake] vibrant, dynamic and lively".

Awaiting approval

The government claimed that a sewerage network for six hamlets had been laid, and detailed project reports for modular sewage treatment plants were under preparation. A ₹212.38-crore project, named 'Integrated Management Programme for conservation of Dal-Nigeen Lake ecosystem', had been accepted in principle by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, it said.

The five-year project aimed to address sewerage in 28 internal hamlets, treat inflow from catchment areas awaited the final approval from the Finance Department.

SBI Q3 net rises 24.5% to ₹21,028 cr. on interest income

Deposit growth remained healthy with current account growth in double digits despite competitive market environment, says C.S. Setty, Chairperson, State Bank of India

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

State Bank of India's (SBI) reported standalone net profit rose 24.5% year-on-year (YoY) in the third quarter of FY26 to ₹21,028 crore on a rise in net interest income (NII).

NII increased by 9.04% while net interest margin dipped a tad to 3.12% from 3.15% a year earlier.

Gross advances climbed 15.17% to ₹46.8 lakh crore, while gross deposits rose 9.02% to ₹57 lakh crore. On asset quality, Gross Non Performing Assets (GNPA) slid 12.3% to ₹73,637 crore while Net NPAs dipped 15.74% to ₹18,012 crore.

Strong footing: SBI has enough headroom to address future credit growth needs in terms of capital and liquidity, says Setty.

"Deposit growth remained healthy with current account growth in double digits despite competitive market environment," said C.S. Setty, Chairperson, SBI.

"Deposits at our foreign offices have grown well at 8.32% YoY basis. Credit growth has remained strong and there has been a robust demand for credit across all the segments-...retail, agriculture, MSMEs and corporate have crossed ₹26 trillion with YoY growth of 16.51%. All the components witnessed double-digit growth. The domestic credit deposit ratio was at 72.98% at the end of Q3 of FY26, an improvement of 404 basis points year-on-year. We have enough headroom to address future credit growth requirements both in terms of capital and liquidity."

Delineating the downside risks to geopolitical tensions, global trade uncertainties, financial market volatility and commodity price volatility, Mr. Setty said the role of capital markets in the financial savings for households was increasing. Mr. Setty also informed SBI mutual fund would hit the public market for the initial public offer before September.

'Trade deal opens up U.S. textile market'

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Union Ministry of Textiles said on Saturday that the agreement between India and the U.S. opens up a $118 billion U.S. global imports market of textiles, apparels, and made ups.

With the U.S. being India's largest export destination of around $10.5 billion, the deal is expected to play a pivotal role in India achieving its intended target of $100 billion exports in 2030.

U.S. imports of textiles and apparel from India dropped 31.4% Y0Y in Nov. 2025. AFP

The 18% reciprocal tariffs on all the textile products, including apparel and made-ups, will remove the disadvantage that Indian exporters had and also place them in a better position than Bangladesh (20%), China (30%), Pakistan (19%) and Vietnam (20%), the Ministry said.

'Compete effectively'

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry chairman Ashwin Chandran said India's textile and apparel exports can once again compete effectively in the U.S. The U.S. imports of textiles and apparel from India dropped 31.4% in November 2025 compared with November 2024. The industry is awaiting more clarity on cotton as India's exports of textiles and apparel are primarily driven by cotton.

A. Sakthivel, chairman of the AEPC, said the India-U.S. trade agreement will also address the issue of non-tariff barriers to trade and reduce the compliance burden and procedural delays leading to the faster movement of goods to the U.S. market.

Our focus is on raising throughput, utilisation : BPCL

Saptaparno Ghosh
BETUL, GOA

Our endeavour is to constantly increase the throughput and refinery utilisation with safety parameters in mind, Sanjiv Khanna, CMD, Bharat Petroleum Corporate Ltd. (BPCL) told *The Hindu* in an interaction on the sidelines of the India Energy Week in Goa last week.

The State-owned refiner crude oil throughput in the December-end quarter rose almost 10.2% on a year-over-year basis to 10.51 million metric tonne (MMT). Standalone net profit during the same period rose 62.3% year-on-year to ₹7,545.27 crore.

Refiner's GRM

Importantly, gross refining margin (GRM), the primary indicator of profitability for a refiner, stood at $13.25/barrel in the December-end quarter, *The Hindu* learnt separately from company officials.

"Our endeavour is to increase [throughput and utilisation]," said Mr. Khanna, adding, "Within the safe operating region whatever maximisation can be done, we always try for it."

Mr. Khanna also pointed to BPCL having the highest capacity utilisation in the domestic industry - at 115% as on date.

Crude procurement

Asked about the rationale behind BPCL doubling the quantum of procurement from Brazil's Petrobras, Mr. Khanna said the strategy for crude oil procurement from any geography hinged on assessing the "techno-commercial" feasibility of the deal.

"Our objective is very simple. When I am going to the market, we see which is the most techno-economical crude for me," he stated.

Processing ability

"Some crude [oil] may be very economical, but the refineries may not be able to process it.

"Therefore, depending on the techno-economical evaluation, we pick up the crude," he added.

Sweating assets: A worker rides a bicycle at the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. refinery in Mumbai. REUTERS FILE

BPCL in talks with Azerbaijan's SOCAR for LPG purchase

Saptaparno Ghosh
BETUL, GOA

Bharat Petroleum is in talks with State oil company of Azerbaijan for procurement of liquified petroleum gas (LPG), T.V. Pandiyan, head of LPG business with the State-owned refiner told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the India Energy Week in Goa last week.

Further, whilst elaborating on the company's objective for diversification, Mr. Pandiyan informed BPCL had also floated a tender to import cooking gas from the U.S.

He said the firm's basket hinged on 90% of procurement being done via term-contracts and the rest from spot purchases. The tender for U.S. is premised on spot purchases.

'For diversification'

Elaborating, Mr. Pandiyan, said, "There is a conflict in the Middle East. What if the [Strait of] Hormuz gets stuck up, what will we do?" adding, "This [the tender] forms part of objective for diversification of sources."

On the broader dynamics, Mr. Pandiyan explained China not taking U.S. LPG cargoes would also provide for India getting them cheaper. "U.S. ships that were taking LPG to China, they are being taxed because of the prevailing tariff war, so the landed cost of LPG on China's shores have become costlier. Therefore, China is not taking U.S. cargoes," he stated, adding, "They [the Chinese] are instead taking Middle East cargoes because of which U.S. cargoes are in surplus. We are sensing the landed cost of

China not taking U.S. LPG cargoes would also provide for India getting them cheaper.

U.S. cargoes on Indian shores would be cheaper and thus, we floated a tender to the extent of 10% of import needs on an all oil-company basis to avail the advantage at present."

On under-recoveries

According to Mr. Pandiyan, the under-recovery on LPG cylinder could rise to some extent should the international gas prices continue on an upward trajectory. "International prices cooled off in the last year, and suddenly, in the last 1-2 months picked up. Therefore, next month, as per the prices, our under-recoveries might go up to some extent," he stated.

He informed (January 28), the under-recoveries stood at ₹90/cylinder, and ₹30/cylinder in December.

In August last year, the Union Cabinet approved a ₹30,000 crore compensation scheme for oil firms for subsidising the sale of cooking gas during soaring global prices back then.

He said BPCL's share in the package was about ₹7,500 crore. Two instalments were paid in November and December and it would continue for the next 10 months.

INBRIEF

Pinwheel Therapeutics raises $20 mn from 108 BioCapital

Pinwheel Therapeutics, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical firm, said it raised $20 million from U.S.-based growth equity fund, 108 BioCapital. Having recently completed its first closure of over $40 million, the fund initiated registration for a Gift City feeder vehicle with an application in due process. Dr. Sasha Bakhru, managing partner & CEO, 108 BioCapital said, "This represents a compelling next-generation, clinical-stage anticoagulant reversal opportunity."

RIL unit buys majority stake in Australia's Goodness Group

Reliance Consumer Products Ltd. (RCPL), the FMCG arm of Reliance Industries Ltd., said it has acquired majority stake in Australia's 'better-for-you' beverage business Goodness Group Global Pty. Ltd. (GGG) for an unspecified amount. The deal marks RCPL's entry into the consumer goods market in Australia. Under the agreement, RCPL will help promote Goodness Group's healthy beverages brands such as Nexba and PACE across newer markets including India.

Embassy REIT to pay ₹613 cr. to unit holders for December

Realty firm Embassy Office Parks REIT declared distribution of ₹613 crore to unitholders for the quarter ended December on better income. Revenue from operations rose 17% annually to ₹1,193 crore during October-December period of this fiscal while the net operating income (NOI) increased 19% to ₹985 crore, according to a regulatory filing on Friday. The firm delivered quarterly distribution of ₹613 crore, or ₹6.47 per unit, up 10% annually, it added. PTI

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED

E-Tender Notice

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Estimate Amount : Rs. 107,70,81,970.64/- excluding GST.
Earnest Money Deposit : Rs.5,00,000/-
Period of Completion : 15 months
Due Date of Submission : 05-03-2026, 15:00 Hrs
Tender documents and tender schedule may be downloaded from the e-GP **website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Date: 06-02-2026 Managing Director
Thiruvananthapuram **D3/137/2026/I&PRD** Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd

राजस्थान स्कूल शिक्षा परिषद्
भू- तल, ब्लॉक-6, डॉ.एस. राधाकृष्णन शिक्षा संकुल, जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग, जयपुर,
फोन नं: 0141-2700459, E-Mail:- RAJSMSA.CIVIL@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN
क्रमांक :- F-5(1)(294)RCSCE/Civil/SMSA/NIT 17 2025-26 /Vol-13/2025/D-7017 दिनांक :- 04/02/2026

अल्पकालिन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 17 (सिविल)/2025-26
(बालिका सैनिक स्कूल के निर्माण कार्यों हेतु)

राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार के राजकीय/अर्द्धशासकीय/स्वायत्तशासी निकायों में सक्षम श्रेणी में निर्माण कार्यों हेतु पंजीकृत संवेदकों से MODIFIED BUDGET ANNOUCEMENT 2024-25 योजनान्तर्गत स्वीकृत 04 बालिका सैनिक स्कूल के निर्माण कार्यों हेतु राशि रू. 6579.19 लाख (प्रति कार्य की राशि रूपये 605.89 लाख से 1991.10 लाख के मध्य) बाबत् कार्यवार ई–टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से अल्पकालिन ई–निविदाऐं 06/02/2026 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 20/02/2026 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है।

- निविदा से सम्बधित समस्त विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट **http://rajsmsa.nic.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।
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UBN No. : RSE2526WSOB06651
राज.संवाद/सी/25/19343
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समग्र शिक्षा

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER. H-Citi & SNDP, GHMC, HYDERABAD.
Tender Notice No.14/SE/H-Citi & SNDP /MUL Zone/GHMC/2025-2026, Dt:07.02.2026.

Item No.	Name of the Work
1.	"Project management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of 6 lane bi directional flyover crossing TKR College Junction, Gayathri Nagar Junction and Mandamallamma Junction under Engineering procurement construction (EPC) / Turnkey" (Item-01)
2.	"Project management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of RK Puram ROB Deposit work" under Engineering Procurement Construction(EPC)/Turnkey Basis" (Item-02)
3.	"Project management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of Patigadda ROB-Deposit work" under Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC)/Turnkey Basis" (Item-03)

Events	Date & Timings
Start Date	10.02.2026 at 03.00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting	18-02-2026 at 03.00 PM Location: O/o Chief Engineer (H-CITI), GHMC 6th Floor, GHMC Head Office Tank Bund, Hyderabad
Last Date & Time for receipt of Bids	26.02.2026 at 03.00 PM
Technical Bid Opening	26.02.2026 After 03.30 PM
Price Bid Opening	27.02.2026 at 04.00 PM

Address of the officer concerned Sri P. Mohan Reddy, SE (H-Citi & SNDP). Superintending Engineer (H-Citi & SNDP), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad Further details can be seen at 'e' procurement @ ***www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in.***

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
H-Citi & SNDP, Malkajgiri,
Uppal & LB Nagar, GHMC

DIPR R.O.No.15106-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 07.02.2026

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CLUTCH PLAY

Only I could tell how much pressure I was feeling: Suryakumar

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Only I could tell how much pressure I was feeling when we were 77 for six. But at the same time, I had that belief that I had batted in similar situations. And we learned that we could have batted a little better or maybe a little smarter... Washington Sundar is joining us in Delhi [ahead of Thursday's Namibia game] — Suryakumar Yadav.

SEEKING DIVINE HELP

Every part of my body prayed for the dropped catch: Faheem

AFP

Pakistan's Faheem Ashraf admitted that there was a prayer not just on his lips but every inch of his body before Netherlands' Max O'Dowd put down his catch. "The feeling at that time... it wasn't only my lips that were praying, every part of my body was praying for that catch to be dropped," Faheem said.

TRUE ALL-ROUNDER

Shepherd is always ready to put his hand up for the team: Hope

RITU RAJ KONWAR

West Indies skipper Shai Hope showered praise on Romario Shepherd. "He's one of those guys who's always willing to learn and improve. He's transformed his game with the bat and is one of the most dangerous finishers in world cricket today. He's always ready to put his hand up whenever the team needs it, with bat or ball".

THE DREAM

Getting to play in Kabul bigger than the World Cup: Rashid

R. RAGU

Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan dreams of playing an international match at home in Kabul. "Yes, that's bigger than the World Cup, to be honest. [If and when] we play an international game in Afghanistan, then everyone will see how welcoming people back home in Afghanistan are," Rashid said.

Skipper Suryakumar saves the day for Men in Blue

India, asked to bat first, slips to 77 for six in the 13th over before SKY's 49-ball unbeaten 84 pilots the side to 161 for nine; USA finds pacers Siraj and Arshdeep too hot to handle, loses by 29 runs

T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MUMBAI

The captain rose to the fore and the host prospered at the Wankhede Stadium here on Saturday night. Suryakumar Yadav's masterly unbeaten 84 helped India post 161 for nine, a score that proved beyond the reach of the United States of America (USA) in the ICC Twenty20 World Cup Group A clash.

In the chase, USA struggled for a toehold and finished with 132 for eight, handing defending champion India a 29-run triumph. Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj scythed through the top-order.

Andries Gous, Saiteja Mukkamalla and Monank Patel were back in the hut as the visitor struggled at 13 for three.

Ebb and flow: Suryakumar came to India's rescue before Siraj struck two quick blows to derail USA's chase. Van Schalkwyk's four-for had earlier rattled the host. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Down for the count

Milind Kumar and Sanjay Krishnamurthi hung in together for a 58-run alliance but once the duo fell, the USA was down for the count.

Earlier as fans trooped in, a member of the Indian diaspora screamed "USA, USA," and in jest a local fan yelled: "Simon go back." Either it was just a throwaway line or perhaps a hattip to an iconic moment during India's freedom struggle in the past.

And after a glitzy opening ceremony, USA skipper Monank won the toss, elected to field and found the Indian openers slightly tentative.

Ishan Kishan bided his time while Abhishek Sharma lofted the first ball he faced straight to the fielder in the deep as seamer Ali Khan turned ecstatic. Tilak Varma then eased the pressure while tucking into Saurabh Netravalkar with a six and a four.

Kishan too joined the act, whipping a maximum against Ali, and while the two batters had their reprieves as two catches were dropped, they failed to capitalise.

Both succumbed to Shadley van Schalkwyk, through soft dismissals triggered by ambitious shots finding eager fielders. It was a template that marred Shivam Dube too as India wobbled at 46 for four, and it got worse when a struggling Rinku Singh departed.

However, Suryakumar (84 n.o., 49b, 10x4, 4x6) hung in and relished a lucky break on 15 as a caught-and-bowled was dropped by Shubham Ranjane.

He picked his singles, watched Hardik Pandya's exit, and found an ally in Axar Patel. And when he toppled while scooping a four off Ranjane, it ushered in his half-century. He quickly rose to soak in the applause.

A stunning six off Schalkwyk and 21 runs off the last over from Netravalkar, revealed Suryakumar at his rousing best, and India had done enough to seize the night.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Ishan Kishan c Milind b van Schalkwyk 20 *(16b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c Krishnamurthi b Ali Khan 0 *(1b)*, Tilak Varma c Monank b van Schalkwyk 25 *(16b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 84 *(49b, 10x4, 4x6)*, Shivam Dube c Netravalkar b van Schalkwyk 0 *(1b)*, Rinku Singh c Milind b Mohsin 6 *(14b)*, Hardik Pandya c Saiteja b Harmeet 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel c Mohsin b Harmeet 14 *(11b, 2x4)*, Arshdeep Singh c Milind b van Schalkwyk 4 *(6b, 1x4)*, Varun Chakaravarthy run out 0 *(0b)*; Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 161.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-8 (Abhishek, 1.2 overs), 2-45 (Kishan, 5.2), 3-46 (Tilak, 5.5), 4-46 (Dube, 5.6), 5-72 (Rinku, 11.4), 6-77 (Hardik, 12.4), 7-118 (Axar, 16.4), 8-140 (Arshdeep, 18.6), 9-161 (Varun, 19.6).

USA BOWLING

Netravalkar 4-0-65-0, Ali Khan 2-0-13-1, van Schalkwyk 4-0-25-4, Mohsin 4-0-16-1, Ranjane 2-0-16-1, Harmeet 4-0-26-2.

USA

Andries Gous c Tilak b Siraj 6 *(9b, 1x6)*, Saiteja Mukkamalla c Varun b Siraj 2 *(7b)*, Monank Patel c Dube b Arshdeep 0 *(2b)*, Milind Kumar st. Kishan b Varun 34 *(34b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Sanjay Krishnamurthi c Rinku b Axar 37 *(31b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Shubham Ranjane lbw b Siraj 37 *(22b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Harmeet Singh c Siraj b Axar 0 *(1b)*, Mohammad Mohsin c Tilak b Arshdeep 8 *(9b, 1x4)*, Shadley van Schalkwyk (not out) 2 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-3): 6; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 132.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-8 (Gous, 1.4), 2-11 (Monank, 2.1), 3-13 (Saiteja, 3.2), 4-71 (Milind, 11.6), 5-98 (Krishnamurthi, 15.2), 6-98 (Harmeet, 15.3), 7-110 (Mohsin, 17.4), 8-132 (Ranjane, 19.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-18-2, Siraj 4-0-29-3, Varun 4-0-24-1, Axar 4-0-24-2, Hardik 4-0-34-0.

Toss: USA; **PoM:** Suryakumar.
India won by 29 runs.
India's next match: Feb. 12 vs. Namibia, Delhi, 7 p.m.

Faheem dazzles as Pakistan survives a Dutch scare

Agence France-Presse
COLOMBO

Faheem Ashraf smashed an unbeaten 29 off 11 balls as Pakistan scrambled past the Netherlands by three wickets to avoid a massive shock in the curtain-raiser of the T20 World Cup here on Saturday.

Pakistan was made to sweat as the Netherlands took a flurry of late wickets to leave it needing 29 off the last two overs with only three wickets in hand at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground.

Faheem then hit 24, including three sixes, off a 19th over that also saw him being dropped in the deep by Max O'Dowd and then completed the chase with three balls to spare.

Pakistan had begun well, racing to 61 for two after the six-over power play. Sahibzada Farhan looked in prime touch, cracking 47 off 31, but his exit swung the pendulum the Dutch way.

Right-arm quick Paul van Meekeren produced a double-wicket maiden to turn the screws. When the unconvincing Babar Azam perished in the next over for a scratchy 15, Pakistan was in trouble having lost three wickets for two runs in the space of 10 deliveries.

Great escape: Faheem came to Pakistan's rescue with a 11-ball unbeaten 29 to take the former champion over the line. AFP

With the chase wobbling, Faheem stitched a priceless unbroken 34-run stand for the eighth wicket with Shaheen Afridi to see Pakistan home.

Earlier, the Netherlands showed plenty of flair after being put in. Roared on by around 200 travelling fans, they were in a good position at 127 for four with four overs to go, but Pakistan applied the brakes with the slow bowlers sharing six wickets between them.

The scores:
The Netherlands 147 in 19.5 overs (Bas de Leede 30, Scott Edwards 37, Salman Mirza 3/24) lost to Pakistan 148/7 in 19.3 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 47).
Toss: Pakistan. **PoM:** Faheem.

PCB and ICC in formal dialogue

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Pakistan Cricket Board and the ICC have opened formal discussions over Pakistan's T20 World Cup clash against India. The fate of the match remains uncertain after the Government of Pakistan recently announced on social media that the men's team has been directed not to take the field against India in Colombo on February 15.

The Hindu understands that the PCB has conveyed its inability to play the fixture, invoking the force majeure clause of the Members Participation Agreement, which covers unforeseen circumstances, including government directives.

The onus is on the ICC to determine whether it can persuade the PCB that forfeiting a match would be in violation of the MPA, which mandates that every member must play all scheduled matches in an ICC tournament. The commencement of formal dialogue between the PCB and the ICC leaves a window open for the Pakistan authorities to reconsider their stance.

Hetmyer and Shepherd deliver for WI

Heroes of the game: Shepherd celebrates his hat-trick with Hetmyer. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Shimron Hetmyer smashed a blistering half-century to rewrite a Caribbean record and power two-time champion West Indies to a 35-run victory over late entrant Scotland in their opening T20 World Cup Group C match at the Eden Gardens here on Saturday.

Romario Shepherd's five-wicket haul, which included a hat-trick, was the icing on the cake.

Inserted to bat, the West Indies posted a formidable 182 for five before wrapping up the Scotland chase for 147.

The Caribbean team managed only 33 for no loss in the PowerPlay as openers Brandon King (35, 30b, 4x4, 1x6), who plundered 17 runs off Safyaan Sharif in the seventh over, and captain Shai Hope added 54 runs.

Hetmyer (64, 36b, 2x4, 6x6) replaced Hope in the ninth over and thoroughly entertained the 18,000-odd spectators with his blitzkrieg that was studded with breathtaking pulls to the stands.

The southpaw reached his milestone off 22 balls, breaking Chris Gayle's 17-year-old record for the fastest half-century by a West Indian in the T20 World Cup.

Hetmyer's fire power overshadowed the efforts of Rovman Powell (24, 14b, 1x4, 2x6) and Sherfane Rutherford (26, 13b, 4x4, 1x6). A sensational catch by Brandon McMullen at deep midwicket off Sharif ended Hetmyer's stay in the penultimate over.

Scotland's reply was on expected lines. It lost three early wickets, with George Munsey falling to a stunning catch by Hetmyer off Shamar Joseph before captain Richie Berrington (42, 24b, 3x4, 2x6) and Tom Bruce (35, 28b, 1x4, 2x6) put up a fight by adding 78 runs.

Shepherd (5/20) removed four desperate Scottish batters, including a hat-trick (Matthew Cross, Michael Leask and Oliver Davidson), in his third over and the team's 17th to earn his maiden five-for in West Indies' comprehensive win.

The scores: West Indies 182/5 in 20 overs (Brandon King 35, Shimron Hetmyer 64, Brad Currie 2/23) bt Scotland 147 in 18.5 overs (Richie Berrington 42, Tom Bruce 35, Jason Holder 3/30, Romario Shepherd 5/20).
Toss: Scotland. **PoM:** Hetmyer.

Spin-heavy Afghanistan looks to get the better of New Zealand in their opener

Rashid & Co. will aim to emulate their 2024 edition heroics; the batting unit, led by Zadran and Gurbaz, needs to pull its weight if the team has to go deep in the tournament; the Kiwis will be keen on bouncing back from the drubbing in the recent series against India

Huge responsibility: Rashid will be keen to use his experience and skills with both the ball and bat to inspire Afghanistan in the T20 showpiece. R. RAGU

T20 WORLD CUP

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

One of the highlights of the 2024 T20 World Cup was Afghanistan's sensational march to the semifinals. The foundation for the team's inspiring run - in which it also beat the mighty Australia - began with a crushing 84-run win over New Zealand.

The memories of that game in Providence should be fresh in the minds of both these outfits when they get ready to square off against each other to kick-start their 2026 campaign (Group D) here at the MAC Stadium here on Sunday.

Afghanistan will bank on its formidable spin attack, led by skipper Rashid Khan, to stifle the Black Caps, especially if the Chepauk surface plays true to its reputation of being kind to tweakers.

Apart from Rashid, the experienced Mohammad Nabi and Noor Ahmad - the latter can expect good local support through his Chennai Super Kings association - form a potent combination. The batting unit, though, relies heavily on openers Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmanullah Gurbaz, and the middle-order batters need to pull their weight if the squad hopes to go deep in the tournament.

New Zealand, meanwhile, has to quickly learn lessons from the 1-4 drubbing at the hands of India recently, to avoid another first-round exit. The main issue in the bilateral series was its batting, which was over-reliant on Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips. However, the Kiwis have often shown the ability to raise their levels on the big stage.

This is one of the most competitive groups, with three of the five sides ranked in the top-10 (New Zealand, South Africa, and Afghanistan). Can Rashid's men spring another surprise?

Today's matches

Chennai, 11 a.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 2
New Zealand 1 | Afghanistan 1

Mumbai, 3 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
England | Nepal
First Meeting

Colombo (RPS), 7 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 3
Sri Lanka 3 | Ireland 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

We have enough skills to beat any team now: Rashid

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
CHENNAI

> I don't mind where we finish. The energy and effort should remain top priority
> – RASHID

> We've seen Afghanistan's recent success. So we know we've got to be 'on' to get past them
> – SANTNER

Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan rejects the practice of teams being given 'tags' before a tournament.

When asked about his side being often labelled as the underdogs, Rashid said: "Well, that's just the media discussion, we never talk about those things."

"Ten to 12 years back, you wouldn't have thought that Afghanistan would reach the semifinal of a World Cup [referring to 2024]. And even for us, just participating was the biggest thing [then]. Now we have enough skills to beat any team as long as we stay strong mentally and physically," he said at the MAC Stadium on Saturday, on the eve of Afghanistan's T20 World Cup fixture against New Zealand.

"I don't mind where we finish. The energy and effort should remain top priority and that is more important than winning or losing. As a team, that's the mindset: we go out against any opposition, put that 200% effort, and then see the result," he added.

Rashid and New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner had a pragmatic outlook on the stiff competition in Group D, touted as the 'Group of Death' of the edition.

"That's how it goes in a World Cup. You don't get things easily; it's always very tough, and that's the beauty of T20 cricket," Rashid emphasised.

Santner added: "I guess we're used to it now, same as last time [2024 WC]. We've seen Afghanistan's recent success, not only against us but throughout the last World Cup and the bilaterals that followed. So we know we've got to be 'on' to get past them."

The pressure of playing in big stadiums is new to many of our players: Madsen

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Italy is a football country. So football that Milan Football and Cricket Club became A.C. Milan, and cricket was reduced to a trivia question for quizmasters.

Still, Italy is at a T20 World Cup. Not metaphorically. Not spiritually. Literally. Bags packed. Helmets on. National anthem queued. It is a squad built like assembled furniture. It arrives with part-timers, astroturf cricketers, Australian accents, Indian, South African, and Sri Lankan heritage, Italian passports, and a 42-year-old captain who has played a hockey World Cup for South Africa - Wayne Madsen.

Ready to roar: Madsen in action during the practice match against Canada. R RAGU

Italy's World Cup build-up, Madsen insisted on Monday, "has been really good," with a two-week preparatory block in Dubai setting the tone. "We've had good wins against Ireland (T20I series) and Namibia (practice match). We're starting to build confidence in the group, finding our methods to win games," he said after his team's 10-run win over Canada in the warm-up match here.

Sports psychologist Andy Hooton, whom Madsen works with at Derbyshire, joined the set-up after discussions in November - a new ground for Italy.

Role of a psychologist

"The pressure of playing in big stadiums and in front of a lot of fans is going to be new to many of our players," Madsen said.

"As far as I'm aware, it (working with a psychologist) is something new for the team. Probably half of our squad, maybe even just over half, have jobs outside of cricket. We felt it was important, particularly for guys who are not in professional set-ups, to deal with pressure in big games. In the last month, we've had a lot of chats and discussions around the mental side of this World Cup - what it's going to be for the individuals and the team," he added.

Back home, cricket is different. "There is club cricket in Italy, and none of it is on natural turf wickets. Everything's astroturf. It's a big adjustment when we go to tournaments. The ball's trajectory is different."

To prepare, the Italy-based players trained for six weeks in Sri Lanka. "We've got guys who are juggling jobs and have sacrificed so much to be here. Those journeys bring us together as a team. Our bond as Italians is special, and World Cup exposure will only help cricket grow (in Italy)," Madsen said.

It's not been a very nice time in my life: Brook on dealing with the bouncer incident

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

It has been over three months since Harry Brook was involved in an altercation with a bouncer in Wellington that resulted in a heavy financial penalty and a final warning from the England and Wales Cricket Board. It has been a month since the episode was first reported by *The Telegraph*. On Saturday, the eve of England's Men's T20 World Cup opener against Nepal, Brook admitted that dealing with the incident and its aftermath has been far from easy.

"It has been pretty horrendous, to be honest, but that is part of it. It has just been tough. It's not been a very nice time in my life. It has just not been easy," Brook said.

Brook. EMMANUAL YOGINI

"I can't go through all the things that I have learned and be here for hours, but I have got good time to reflect after this World Cup this winter and probably write a few things down. But I have definitely learned that there is a hell of a lot more responsibility on your shoulders when you are a captain, and you can't take that responsibility lightly, and you have got to be on virtually all the time."

Despite the controversy, England remains a title contender, buoyed by its impressive form through 2025.

The England camp also received a boost with opener Phil Salt, who had been sidelined with a back spasm, being cleared for Sunday's afternoon match.

With the Wankhede Stadium hosting a fixture on Saturday, England opted to rest. Nepal trained at the DY Patil Stadium.

Fighting spirit defined this Indian team, says Deepesh

U-19 WORLD CUP

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Silence, emotion, and quiet pride marked India's u-19 World Cup triumph, according to D. Deepesh, who said the team struggled to find words immediately after the final moments. "No one knew what to say. We were all silent and emotional," he recalled over phone on Saturday.

"We are winning after four years. I felt proud and emotional," the 18-year-old said, adding that his "parents and everyone back home" shared the joy. "This is the result of our hard work," he said.

Fighting spirit, Deepesh believes, defined this Indian side – a team that stayed united, resilient, and unyielding till the end. "We learned that we should all stay together as a team. No one gave up on each other," he said.

On cloud nine: Indian players exult after going the distance in the u-19 World Cup. ICC

Fellow Tamil Nadu all-rounder Ambrish described the moments after the final as emotional and collective rather than personal.

"We were all very happy. I didn't even expect that moment. Everyone was on their toes and running. We dedicated it for each other. We played as a team. So, it felt like a reward for everyone's hard work," he said over phone.

One of the defining off-field moments of the campaign came before the high-pressure clash against Pakistan, when Sachin Tendulkar addressed the squad. "He gave many good examples," Ambrish said. "As players, we go through bad patches. He spoke about how to recover from it – that there will be bad phases in cricket, but we shouldn't let ourselves down, but come back up. He spoke about the mindset."

On the field, the World Cup marked a significant phase in the pacer's evolution, particularly with the new ball. "My bowling was a bit back-of-the-length earlier. This time I tried putting it more on the up (fuller lengths)," said the 18-year-old, adding subtle outswing was his strength.

SNAPSHOTS

India wins SAFF U-19 women's title

POKHARA (NEPAL): The India U-17 women's team showed their mettle in the final to clinch the SAFF U-19 women's football championship, defeating Bangladesh U-19 4-0 on Saturday. Captain Julan Nongmaithem (42) opened the scoring before Elizabed Lakra (63 penalty), Pearl Fernandes (68) and substitute Anwita Raghuraman (83) completed the triumph.

Tejaswin leads after day 1 of heptathlon

TIANJIN (CHINA): After four events on day one of heptathlon, Tejaswin Shankar leads the field with a total of 3513 points with China's Zihui Hua in second place with 3241 at the 12th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships here on Saturday.
Shankar collected 844 points with a time of 7.11 seconds in the 60m dash. He recorded 7.53m in the long jump to add 942 to his tally. In shot put, his best performance was 13.63m which earned him 706. In high jump he recorded a season best of 2.23m to collect 1021 to move to top of the table.

Elavenil clinches 10m air rifle gold

NEW DELHI: Elavenil Valarivan held off the challenge from Japan's Misaki Nobata to clinch the women's 10m air rifle gold in the Asian rifle/pistol championships here on Saturday. Meghana Sajjanar joined Elavenil on the podium with a bronze. Shambhavi Kshirsagar, meanwhile, broke the Asian finals record on her way to winning gold in the junior women's category. Manyata Singh and Aneesha Sharma, along with Shambhavi, ensured India swept the podium in this category.
India racked up 10 gold medals on the fourth day. The host's overall tally grew to 43 medals, including 27 gold, 10 silver and eight bronze. Ojasvi Thakur secured gold in the women's youth category. India started the day by sweeping the 50m men's pistol podium with Saurabh Chaudhary winning the gold. Kamaljeet Chaudhary and Ravinder Singh bagged silver and bronze, respectively. Elavenil was placed fifth after the end of the second series, but gradually clawed her way back into the lead by the 18th shot. She kept her composure until the end to remain at the top of the pack. In the junior 10m air rifle finals, Shambhavi finished with 253.7.

Lovlina, Sachin among 12 Indians to compete for gold

LA NUCIA (SPAIN): Lovlina Borgohain and Sachin Siwach notched up contrasting victories to storm into the finals, along with 10 other Indians, at the BOXAM Elite International boxing tournament. Twelve Indians, including eight women and four men, will compete for gold.
The results (involving Indians): Semifinals: Elite Men: 55kg: Jadumani Singh lost to Makhmud Sabyrkhan (Kaz) 0-5; **60kg:** Mohammed Hussam Uddin lost to Keoma-Ali Al Ahmadieh (Can) 0-5; **60kg:** Sachin bt Jack Dryden (Eng) 4-1; **70kg:** Hitesh Gulia lost to Torekhan Sabyrkhan (Kaz) 0-5; **70kg:** Deepak bt Nurbek Mursal (Kaz) RSC, round one; **75kg:** Akash bt Timur Nurseitov (Kaz) 4-1; **80kg:** Ankush bt Azamat Bektas (Kaz) 4-0.
Women: 48kg: Manju Rani bt Solomia Lyniv (Ukr) 5-0; **51kg:** Nitu bt Chuthamat Raksat (Tha) 5-0; **54kg:** Preeti bt Aya Hamdi (Fra) 5-0; **54kg:** Poonam bt Ivy-Jane Smith (Eng) 4-1; **60kg:** Priya bt Maud van der Toorn (Ned) 5-0; **65kg:** Pranjal lost to Nazerke Serik (Kaz) 2-3; **65kg:** Kajal lost to Kayla Allen (Eng) 0-5; **70kg:** Arundhati Choudhary bt Dunia Martinez (Esp) 5-0; **75kg:** Lovlina Borgohain bt Rosie Eccles (Wal) 5-0; **75kg:** Sanamacha Chanu lost to Mary-Kate Smith (Eng) 0-4; **80kg:** Naina bt Guzal Sadykova (Kaz) 5-0; **80+kg:** Mankirat Kaur lost to Umida Sadykova (Kaz) RSC, round one.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 11 a.m. 3 & 7 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

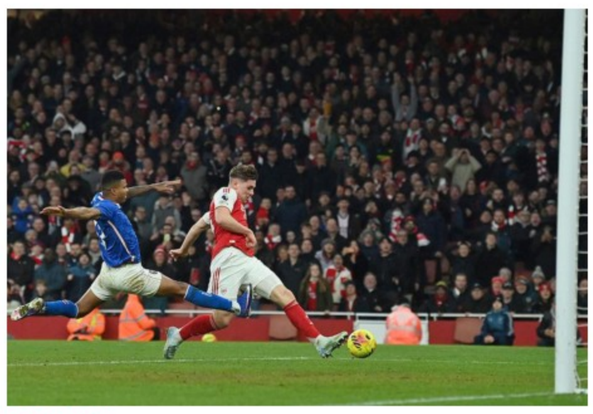
ROUND-UP

Karnataka stretches overall lead to 230

Karnataka took an overall lead of 230 runs on the second day of its under-23 C.K. Nayudu Trophy match against Uttarakhand at Ramnagar.
The scores: Karnataka 244 in 71.4 overs (Dhruv Prabhakar 50, Manvanth Kumar 49, Devansh 5/81) and 146/6 in 40 overs (Dhruv Prabhakar 48, Devansh 4/28) vs. Uttarakhand 160 in 61 overs (Yashovardhan Parantap 4/64).

Tushar, Mansi triumph

Tushar Suveer and Mansi Singh emerged as the men's and women's singles champions of the Yonex-Sunrise all India senior ranking badminton tournament in Bengaluru on Saturday.
The results: Men: Tushar Suveer (Kar) bt Alap Mishra (MP) 21-12, 21-10. **Doubles:** S. Pavan / S. Punith (Kar) bt Kamal Krishnan / Sankarprasad Udayakumar (Ker) 21-16, 21-13.
Women: Mansi Singh (UP) bt Shruti Mundada (Mah) 21-16, 16-21, 21-10. **Doubles:** Aditi Bhat (Utk) / W. Shravani (Mah) bt P. Amrutha (Kar) / S. Likhita (Del) 21-9, 21-13.
Mixed doubles: Nitin Kumar / Likhita (Del) bt Aaryan Sapiah (Har) / Ashwini Ponnappa (Pet) 19-21, 21-17, 21-16.



On target: Gyokeres slides in Arsenal's third. AFP

Arsenal rolls over Sunderland

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
LONDON

Arsenal sealed a comfortable 3-0 win over Sunderland on the back of a Viktor Gyokeres double to extend its advantage at the top of the Premier League table to nine points on Saturday, turning up the pressure on Manchester City ahead of its trip to Liverpool.

A first-half hat-trick from Cole Palmer eased Chelsea past bottom-dweller Wolves 3-1 while Aston Villa was left looking over its shoulders as it dropped points in a one-all draw at Bournemouth.

United wins again

Earlier, Manchester United profited from Tottenham captain Cristian Romero's red card to stretch its perfect start under Michael Carrick to four games with a 2-0 win at Old Trafford.

Robert Lewandowski and Lamine Yamal scored as Barcelona eased to a comfortable 3-0 win over Mallorca on Saturday to move four points clear at the top of LaLiga.

In the Bundeliga, Serhou Guirassy scored late for Borussia Dortmund to cut Bayern Munich's lead to three points on Saturday with a 2-1 win at Wolfsburg.

The results: Premier League: Manchester United 2 (Mbeumo 38, Fernandes 81) bt Tottenham 0; Bournemouth 1 (Rayan 55) drew with Aston Villa 1 (Rogers 22); Arsenal 3 (Zubimendi 42, Gyokeres 66, 90+3); Burnley 0 lost to West Ham 2 (Summerville 13, Castellanos 26); Fulham 1 (Mykolenko 18-og) lost to Everton 2 (Dewsbury-Hall 75, Leno 83-og); Wolves 1 (Arokodare 54) lost to Chelsea 3 (Palmer 13-pen, 35-pen, 38).
LaLiga: Barcelona 3 (Lewandowski 29, Yamal 61, Bernal 83) bt Mallorca 0.
Bundesliga: Freiburg 1 (Beste 13) bt Werder Bremen 0; Mainz 2 (Amiri 8-pen, 80-pen) bt Augsburg 0; Wolfsburg 1 (Koulierakis 52) lost to Borussia Dortmund 2 (Brandt 38, Guirassy 87); St. Pauli 2 (Saliakas 35, Sinani 55-pen) bt Stuttgart 1 (Leweling 90); Heidenheim 0 lost to Hamburg 2 (Konigsdorffer 45+3, Philippe 78).
On Friday: Premier League: Leeds 3 (Bogle 26, Okafor 30, Calvert-Lewin 49) bt Nottingham Forest 1 (Lucca 86).
LaLiga: Celta Vigo 1 (Iglesias 53-pen) lost to Osasuna 2 (Budimir 35, Garcia 79).
Serie A: Verona 0 drew with Pisa 0.
Bundesliga: Union Berlin 1 (Querfeld 87-pen) drew with Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Brown 84).

Big-serving Dhakshineswar pulls India level on day one

His victory over top-100 player de Jong restores parity after Nagal comes a cropper against Dutchman Den Ouden in a three-set encounter; the doubles tie on Sunday holds the key

DAVIS CUP

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Dhakshineswar Suresh added another high-impact bullet point to his fast-growing tennis resume as he beat Jesper de Jong 6-4, 7-5 on day one of the Davis Cup Qualifiers first round fixture against the Netherlands at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Saturday.

Dhakshineswar's maiden win over a top-100 player came after India No. 1 Sumit Nagal lost a tough three-setter to Guy Den Ouden 0-6, 6-4, 3-6. The levelling act now shifts focus to Sunday afternoon's doubles between Yuki Bhambri-Sriram Balaji and Sander Arends-David Pel, a rubber that will break open the tie.

"It's an unreal feeling... making it level," Dhakshineswar said. "The whole team was behind me and I played the way I wanted to."

In the media briefing, captain Rohit Rajpal called him his "trump card", and it is easy to see why. In his Cup debut last September against Switzerland in World Group I, the 25-year-old had beaten Jerome Kym, a player then ranked more than 280 places above. The latest victory gap was a whopping 377.

Prima facie, de Jong appeared the better-rounded player, but Dhakshineswar had the bigger weapon - a booming serve that clicked like a dream. He allowed de Jong a solitary break-point all evening, and he was especially impressive on his second serves, of which he won 18 of 25 points.

Going for it: Dhakshineswar was all aggression in the win over de Jong. K. MURALI KUMAR

Dhakshineswar needed only two breaks of serve - in the tenth game of the first set and the 12th of the second, and on both occasions, de Jong crumbled while serving to stay alive.

The lanky Indian took the opening stanza on his fourth set-point when his opponent sent a forehand long.

> The whole team was behind me and I played the way I wanted to
> **DHAKSHINESWAR**

In the second set, with the match on the line, de Jong went 0-40 down, serving two double-faults en route. The Dutchman erased two match-points but Dhakshineswar finished the contest with a forehand winner.

The triumph went a long way towards assuaging the fans' pain after Nagal's defeat. In the opening set, Nagal looked every bit the man who was playing his first match in over three weeks as he routinely missed first-serves and overcooked his ground-strokes.

In the second, he found the tennis to match Den Ouden, breaking in the seventh game and following it up with two excellent holds to restore parity. But midway through the decider, he lost direction again.

However, the two-hour, 30-minute workout should hold him in good stead for the reverse singles which, after Dhakshineswar's splendid win, will be all important.

Fighting fit: Sawangkaew outlasted Tararudee in a three-set match to reach the final. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sawangkaew sets up title clash with Tagger

MUMBAI OPEN

Tarun Shastry
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association's (MSLTA) centre court took on a distinctly Thai flavour on Saturday as Manan-chaya Sawangkaew battled past compatriot Lanlana Tararudee in a gripping three-set semifinal, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, to reach the final for the second straight year at the L&T Mumbai Open 125K Series here on Saturday.

The 23-year-old Sawangkaew set the tone early, asserting herself from the baseline with sharp footwork and measured aggression. She placed the ball intelligently across the court, opened up angles with clean down-the-line strokes, and closed out points with assured finishing at the net.

Tararudee struggled to withstand the sustained pressure, committing a string of unforced errors as Sawangkaew wrapped up the opening set 6-2.

Tararudee mounted a strong response in the second set, tightening her service games and finding greater bite on both serve and return. She began to turn defence into offence, using depth and timing to disrupt Sawangkaew's rhythm. With Sawangkaew faltering on the return and Tararudee lifting her first-serve percentage – highlighted by a couple of well-placed aces – the momentum swung in her favour as she claimed the set 6-3.

The momentum shift was short-lived, however, as Tararudee seemed visibly rattled in the decider, distracted and thrown off by the thunderous beat of drums and dhols just outside the venue.

Sawangkaew pounced on the opportunity, breaking early and stepping inside the baseline to dictate the rallies. With heavier groundstrokes, sharp angles, and court coverage, she kept Tararudee chasing shadows, racing through the final set 6-1 to book her place in the championship match. She will take on Austria's Lilli Tagger in the summit clash.

Other results: Singles (semifinal): Lilli Tagger (Aut) bt Fangran Tian (Chn) 6-2, 7-6(3).
Doubles (semifinal): Polina Iatcenko & Elina Pridankina bt Naima Karamoko (Sui)/Leolia Jeanjean (Fra) 2-6, 6-4, [10-2].

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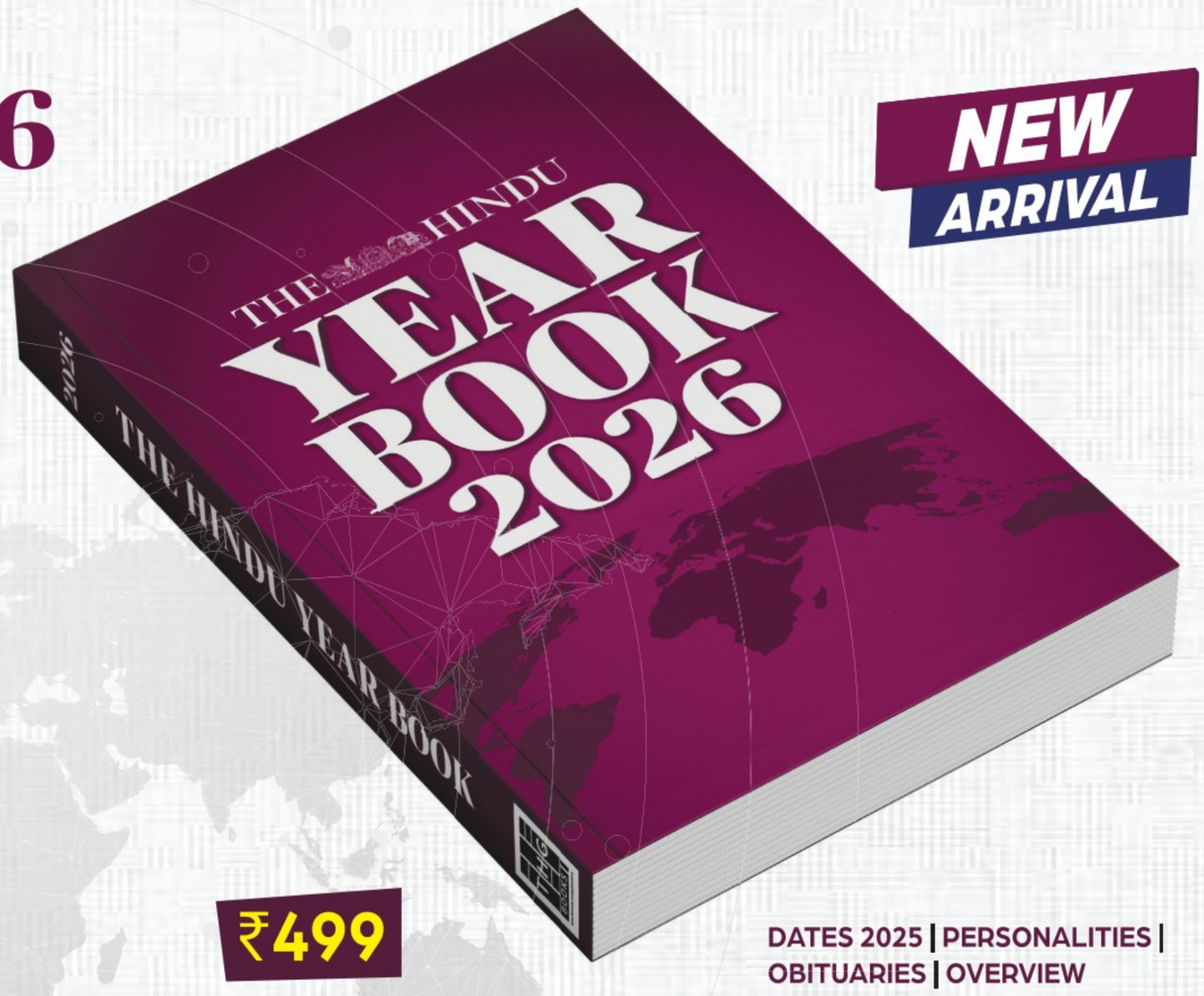
It features a Calendar of Events with Profiles of People, and Data on India and the World. Expert essays cover critical topics such as like AI and the Indus Waters Treaty, while dedicated sections analyse global governance, economy, and sports through evocative photographs and factual reporting.



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CMYK M BG-BGE

Avasthi and Deshpande help Mumbai stage a fightback

The two fast bowlers take four wickets apiece as the host restricts Karnataka to 173; Agarwal (92) wages a lone battle; Akash and Musheer lead the home team's charge in the second essay

RANJI TROPHY

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Crucial wicket: Agarwal's gritty knock ended when Deshpande had him caught at second slip.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

After a dismal batting show let Mumbai down in the first innings of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Karnataka, not many would've imagined that the 42-time champion would eventually stage a comeback.

But Mohit Avasthi (four for 27) and Tushar Deshpande (four for 33) once again proved why the Mumbai cricketers are called 'khadoos'. True to their reputation, the Mumbai fast bowlers refused to give up and bundled out Karnataka for just 173, limiting the deficit to 53 runs.

Karnataka, cruising at 110 for two at one point, looked set for a big total before Deshpande and Avasthi made the most of the conditions at the MCA-BKC ground on Saturday to trigger a collapse. Karnataka lost eight wickets for just 63 runs, and was folded up in just 127 minutes to allow Mumbai bounce back in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal

Coming on the back of a five-wicket haul against Delhi in the last league game, Avasthi maintained good line and length and unsettled the Karnataka middle-order before Deshpande tightened the noose.

Despite wickets tumbling at the other end, Mayank Agarwal (92, 134b, 14x4, 1x6) did put up a fight and challenged the Mumbai bowlers before missing out on a century as he was caught at second slip by Siddhesh Lad off a nippy Deshpande delivery.

While Karnataka squandered the opportunity to gain an upper hand, Mumbai batters Akash Anand (53 batting, 130b, 4x4) and Musheer Khan (49 batting, 105b, 5x4) took lessons from the previous innings and ensured that the host ended the second day at 189 for two, with a lead of 136 runs.

Mumbai started steadily with Yashasvi Jaiswal and Akhil Herwardkar adding 77 runs for the opening stand. Both looked at ease, before a mix-up saw Herwadkar heading back to the dressing room. Shreyas Gopal struck in the next over as Jaiswal was stumped.

But with Musheer and Akash standing firm and adding 112 runs for the third wicket, there were no further slip-ups. Playing every ball by its merit, Akash seemed to be in no hurry, en route to his third fifty-plus score, while Musheer was one run away from his fifty when stumps were drawn.

The scores: Mumbai — 1st innings: 120.

Karnataka — 1st innings: K.L. Rahul c Kotian b Avasthi 28, Mayank Agarwal c Lad b Deshpande 92, Devdutt Padikkal c Akash b Shedge 17, Karun Nair c Jaiswal b Shardul 4, R. Smaran c Akash b Avasthi 0, Shreyas Gopal c Akash b Avasthi 0, Kruthik Krishna c Akash b Deshpande 9, Vidyadhar Patil c Musheer b Deshpande 4, Shikhar Shetty b Avasthi 4, Prasidh Krishna b Deshpande 0, Vidwath Kaverappa (not out) 4; Extras: (lb-9, nb-1, w-1) 11; Total: (in 47.1 overs) 173.

Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-88, 3-119, 4-120, 5-120, 6-156, 7-164, 8-169, 9-169.

Mumbai bowling: Shardul 9-2-52-1, Avasthi 15.1-4-27-4, Deshpande 11-3-33-4, Shedge 8-0-37-1, Mulani 4-0-15-0.

Mumbai — 2nd innings: Yashasvi Jaiswal st. Kruthik b Shreyas 36, Akhil Herwadkar (run out) 33, Akash Anand (batting) 53, Musheer Khan (batting) 49; Extras: (lb-10, b-1, nb-1, w- 6) 18; Total: (for two wkts. in 52 overs) 189.

Fall of wickets: 1-77, 2-77.

Karnataka bowling: Vidyadhar 12-2-52-0, Prasidh 11-1-37-0, Kaverappa 7-0-36-0, Shreyas 13-2-35-1, Shikhar 9-2-18-0.

RANJI QUARTERFINAL SCORES - DAY 2

Nabi... a day to cherish.
R.V. MOORTHY

At Mumbai: Mumbai 120 & 189/2 in 52 overs (Akash Anand 53 batting, Musheer Khan 49 batting) vs. Karnataka 173 in 47.1 overs (Mayank Agarwal 92, Mohit Awasthi 4/27, Tushar Deshpande 4/33).

At Kalyani: Andhra 295 in 88.4 overs (K.S. Bharat 47, Shaik Rasheed 46, Ricky Bhui 83, Mukesh Kumar 5/66, Akashdeep 4/79) vs. Bengal 199/5 in 63 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 112 batting).

At Indore: J & K 194 & 84/5 in 26 overs vs. Madhya Pradesh 152 in 53.4 overs (Yash Dubey 58, Auqib Nabi 7/40, Sunil Kumar 3/47).

At Jamshedpur: Jharkhand 235 vs. Uttarakhand 282/5 in 87 overs (Avneesh Sudha 64, Kunal Chandela 68, J. Suchith 60 batting).

It was more about bowling in partnerships, says Deshpande

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

When Tushar Deshpande walked out to bowl on Saturday, he knew that on a MCA-BKC ground surface, which offered uneven bounce, the batters would struggle.

At the team huddle, it was decided that bowling in partnerships would be the key.

"And for the next couple of hours, Deshpande and Mohit Avasthi executed their plans to perfection as they claimed four wickets apiece to bundle out Karnataka for 173 and bring Mumbai back into the game.

"It was more about bowling in partnerships. Yesterday, when I came to bowl, they (Karnataka) already had a flying start. But this morning, we had them three down already, and that was my chance to run through their batting lineup," Deshpande told *The Hindu*.

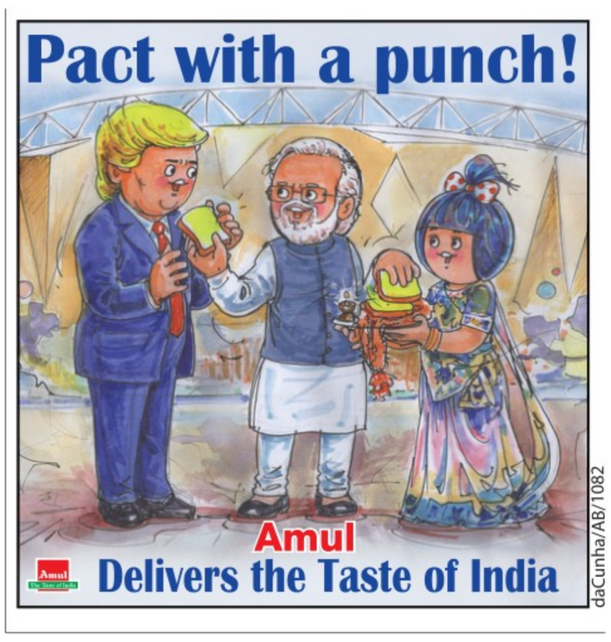
Bowling in right areas

"We knew that the surface was also helping the seam bowlers, so it was very important for us to bowl in the right areas, and also approach things with a positive mindset, and that paid dividends," he added.

While Mumbai got an early breakthrough when Shardul Thakur dismissed Karun Nair, it was important for the bowling unit to keep calm.

"When the pitch is offering some help, it's very important to bowl in the right areas and not get carried away.

"That's exactly what we followed," Deshpande said.



Raja and Bindyarani claim gold medals

MODINAGAR: M. Raja and Bindyarani Devi clinched the elite men's 65kg and women's 58kg titles in National weightlifting championships on Saturday.

The results (winners only):
Men: 65kg: Elite: M. Raja (TN) snatch 130kg, clean and jerk 172kg, total 302kg; **Junior and Youth:** Arumugapandian Maharajan (SSCB) 124kg, 158kg, 282kg. **Women: 58kg: Elite:** Bindyarani Devi (RSPB) 89kg, 119kg, 208kg.

Junior: Rayashree Biswas (WB) 86kg, 106kg, 192kg; **Youth:** Valluri Susmitha (AP) 86kg, 105kg, 191kg.

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‘Over one-third of cancers worldwide may be preventable’

Athira Elssa Johnson

More than one in three cancer cases worldwide can potentially be prevented by reducing exposure to known and modifiable risk factors, according to a global analysis published in *Nature Medicine*.

Study findings

The study estimates that nearly 7.1 million among the 18.7 million cancer cases reported in 2022, or about 38%, of these were linked to factors that could have been reduced through public health interventions and lifestyle changes.

Researchers analysed data from 185 countries, covering 36 cancer types, to examine the influence of 30 preventable risk factors. These included tobacco use, alcohol consumption, infections, obesity, physical inactivity, air pollution, and occupational hazards.

Because cancers often develop years after exposure, the study mostly used risk-factor prevalence from around 2012, with a 10-year gap between exposure and diagnosis.

Smoking, identified as the single largest contributor, accounted for 15.1% of new cancer cases (around 33 lakh) worldwide. Infections were responsible for 10.2% of cases (around 23 lakh), while alcohol consumption contributed 3.2% (around 7 lakh).

The study also found notable differences between men and women. Nearly 45.4% of cancers among men were linked to preventable risks, compared with 29.7% among women.

Tobacco use continues to be the main contributor among men across most regions, with alcohol use and infections also playing a major role. Among women, the pattern varied depending on geography. In many low- and middle-income countries, infections such as human papillomavirus (HPV) and *Helicobacter pylori* were key drivers. In higher-income regions, smoking and high body mass index (BMI) were more significant contributors.

Regional variations were also identified. In East Asia, almost six in 10 cancers among men were linked to modifiable risks, largely driven by tobacco use and infections. In sub-Saharan Africa, infections accounted for nearly one-third of cancer cases among women, stressing gaps in vaccination coverage, sanitation and early screening.

The findings emphasise that cancer risk factors are already well recognised and can be tackled through proven public health strategies like better tobacco control measures, vaccination against HPV and hepatitis B, better air quality, safer working conditions, healthier diets, and more physical activity.

Loud music may damage your hearing before you realise it

Research has shown that prolonged exposure to loud noise can damage synapses without affecting the hearing threshold; since clinical assessments bank on this threshold, a normal audiogram need not mean no hearing damage

Shweta Yogi

The euphoric atmosphere of large music events may leave behind more than just memories. New research published in *Scientific Reports* suggests prolonged exposure to loud music can cause lasting hearing damage.

The study conducted by Nele De Poortere, a postdoctoral researcher, and her colleagues at Ghent University in Belgium focused on “hidden” hearing damage caused by subtle but irreversible changes in synapses. Because this damage doesn’t immediately reduce hearing sensitivity, standard hearing tests often miss it, raising the possibility of an underrecognised public health concern.

“Our study aimed to identify subtle, early-stage forms of noise-related hearing damage and objective markers that could reveal them, to improve early detection, prevention, and clinical care for people at risk who currently fall outside conventional diagnostic criteria,” Dr. De Poortere said.

The cochlea converts sound vibrations into electrical signals that the brain can interpret. The synapses connect sensory hair cells in the cochlea to auditory nerve fibres, transforming sound pressure changes into electrical impulses that are relayed to the brain. Conventional noise-induced hearing loss results from damage to hair cells and appears as reduced hearing sensitivity on audiograms.

Quiet loss
Prolonged exposure to loud noise can damage synapses without affecting hearing thresholds
Research from Ghent University indicates that loud music events cause irreversible damage to essential auditory synapses
Standard hearing tests often fail to detect this condition because it does not reduce hearing sensitivity
Hidden hearing loss functions like signal interference where volume remains adequate but sound clarity is significantly lost
Poorly enforced noise limits in countries like India likely contribute to a higher prevalence of hidden damage
Individuals who consistently use hearing protection maintain better auditory health than those who ignore preventive measures
Clinicians require more sensitive diagnostic tools to identify early auditory damage before symptoms become very obvious
Public gatherings, political campaigns, and religious events in India often exceed safe noise limits. FILE PHOTO

However, research in animal models and human cadavers has shown that prolonged exposure to loud noise can also damage synapses without affecting hearing thresholds, a condition called cochlear synaptopathy (CS).

Dr. De Poortere described hearing loss as turning the volume knob down on a radio so the sound becomes faint. Hidden hearing damage, she said, is more like signal interference or a damaged cable where the volume may be adequate but clarity is lost, especially when there’s background noise.

“Since we don’t test for these kinds of difficulties in the clinic today, despite hearing in challenging and noisy environments being the primary complaint of most patients, it has earned the moniker of ‘hidden’ hearing loss,” Aravindakshan Parthasarathy, assistant professor of Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Pittsburgh, who wasn’t involved in the study, said.

Sound levels are tightly controlled during clinical hearing tests, but at music festivals, peak levels often exceed recommended limits, making objective measurement difficult. By combining personal sound measurements with feedback from people who have attended concerts, the researchers were able to assess noise exposure in real-world settings.

They measured hearing-related parameters and physiological markers of CS before and after the participants attended the events. The study found that a substantial proportion of attendees experienced symptoms such as muffled hearing, suggesting their auditory systems had been pushed beyond their capacity. People who consistently used hearing protection over the years had markedly better hearing.

Dr. Parthasarathy said the study’s strength lies in its use of objective measures of CS and real-world noise exposure tracked with personal dosimeters, rather than relying on participants’ recollections, which are often unreliable.

“This variability likely reflects a complex interaction between multiple factors, including cumulative noise exposure, timing and intensity of exposure, genetic predisposition, age, biological sex, general health, and potentially lifestyle- or environment-related factors,” Dr. De Poortere explained.

According to Prashasti P. Poovaiah, a professor at the Father Muller College of Speech and Hearing in Mangaluru, continuous exposure to noise levels above 80 dB can damage hair cells, synapses or both.

Dr. Parthasarathy noted that despite the enforcement of strict noise limits in developed countries, hidden hearing loss still persists. “In India, these limits are often poorly enforced or absent, so the extent of damage is likely much greater,” he said.

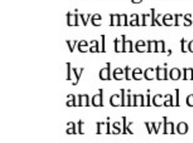
CS often precedes hair cell damage and may offer an early sign of hearing loss, but reliable diagnostic markers remain limited. Experts caution that gaps between animal and human data persist, underscoring the need for new experimental and clinical approaches.

“Key unanswered questions include how subclinical auditory damage progresses over time, who is most vulnerable, and whether these early changes can predict later, more obvious hearing loss,” Dr. De Poortere said.

Clinically, she added, the findings reinforce the need for more sensitive diagnostic tools and stronger emphasis on early prevention and education, particularly for younger people who may accumulate damage long before symptoms appear.

Shweta Yogi is a freelance science writer

Rediscovering the virtues of bamboo, an ancient plant



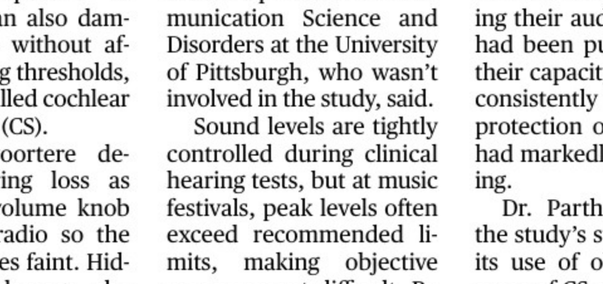
SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Bamboo (called ‘*baans*’ in Hindi, and ‘*moongil*’ in Tamil) is an ancient plant that grows fast in wet soil in broad sunlight. It is well known to people in Asia and Latin America, where communities use bamboo plants for a variety of purposes. The food scientist and historian K.T. Achaya, in his book *A Historical Dictionary of Indian Food*, notes that Jain monks and forest exiles used bamboo stems and leaves for food, since ancient times in India.

Bamboo trees across the country are best planted and grown in tropical and humid conditions, with good sunlight exposure and soil rich in organic matter. The States where bamboo trees flourish are Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. A recent paper titled ‘From Forest to future: A sustainable perspective on bamboo’s nexus with biodiversity, indigenous knowledge, ecological resilience, and current status in Northeast India’, by Singh et al. in the journal *Trees, Forests and People*, reported that bamboo-based industries, using indigenous knowledge, can be strengthened scientifically and by policy interventions through setting up bamboo research centres to enhance local knowledge.

Bamboo finds new uses where sustainability is the goal, for example, in place of plastics for disposable cutlery. In Numaligarh in Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a bio-refinery slated to produce 50,000 MT of ethanol from bamboo last year. Its website mentions many products made in India from bamboo, including clothing, baskets, mats, chairs, tables, shelves, roofing and flooring, musical instruments (flutes and drums), and incense sticks. Some States have set up bamboo research institutes to develop bamboo-made products.


Bamboo finds new uses where sustainability is a goal, for example in place of plastics for disposable cutlery. CHUTTERSNAP/UNSPLASH

In a major push to the bamboo sector, the Central government launched the National Bamboo Mission 2025 to expand bamboo cultivation, strengthen industry linkages, and reduce import dependence. The initiative aims to increase bamboo plantations on non-forest lands such as farms, homesteads, community lands, and irrigation canal borders, thus enhancing farmers’ incomes and ensuring a steady raw material supply for industries. In addition, there is export of bamboo and its materials such as full-length glass mirrors, cotton textiles and bamboo jewellery to the US, Denmark, and Nigeria. Globally, India ranks among the top three exporters of bamboo and its products (the others are China and Vietnam), with an income of several million dollars. Several states, including Maharashtra, Kerala, and Assam, have also set up bamboo research and technology institutes and sell bamboo products such as textiles, building materials, and food products.

Nutritional value

In a November 2025 paper in *Advances in Bamboo Science*, scientists indicated that they were rethinking bamboo as a powerful new superfood. The scientists were from Anglia Ruskin University in the UK, and in the study, they pointed out the nutritional benefits of including bamboo shoots, leaves, and seeds in diets. They reported that adding these bamboo materials could provide essential amino acids, vitamins A, B6, and E, and regulate blood sugar and lipid levels. These are good against diabetes and heart disease. The scientists also conducted a systematic multi-country analysis of the health outcomes of consuming bamboo, revealing that bamboo-based foods are also high in antioxidants and offer probiotic benefits.

While rural populations benefit by consuming bamboo foods, how can we urbanites do so? We can purchase by courier service and through online market vendors and distributors that sell bamboo-made foods and other products.

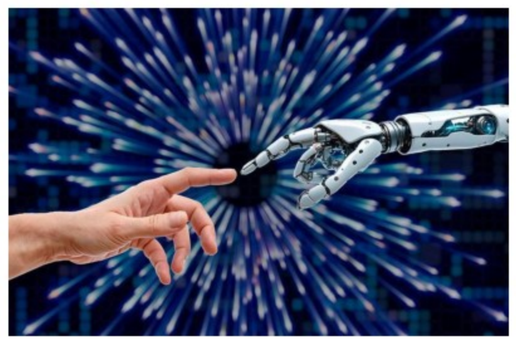
SNAPSHOTS

Heavier ions improve multi-ion cancer therapy

Multi-ion cancer therapy that uses beams of carbon, oxygen, and neon ions to treat radiation-resistant tumors is powerful but faces a trilemma: balancing high treatment intensity with hitting the target accurately. Researchers found that range uncertainty, the risk of the beam stopping slightly before or after the intended spot, is the biggest threat. To solve this, a Japanese team has found that using heavier ions like oxygen narrows the error margin by more than 7%.

Indians’ education better predicts adult mortality

An international team, including from International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, has found that an Indian’s education level predicts surviving middle age much better than their household wealth. Both higher income and better education reduced the risk of premature death but the protective benefit of schooling was stronger for both sexes. Education provides essential cognitive skills and social networks that help individuals recognise illness early and avoid risky behaviours like smoking.



Research tool scans papers without hallucinating

Researchers have developed a model called OpenScholar to help scientists synthesise the growing volume of scientific literature. OpenScholar identifies relevant passages from a data store of 45 million open-access papers to draft citable responses, using an inference loop to iteratively refine drafts to improve accuracy. In tests, OpenScholar exceeded GPT-4o’s correctness and experts preferred its responses to human ones more than half the time.

Question Corner

Hang on tight!

How is it that the elements and compounds of our atmosphere are not left behind in the great void of space even when the earth is moving at great speed through space along with the sun and its sister planets?
– Gayatri Chandrashekar

The primary reason is gravity, which acts like an invisible tether. Every molecule of gas in our atmosphere, nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, etc., has mass. Earth’s core exerts a gravitational pull that attracts these molecules towards the centre of the planet. Even though earth travels at 1,07,000 kmph around the sun, the atmosphere is trapped inside earth’s ‘gravity well’.

Also, the atmosphere possesses the same momentum as the solid earth. Since the gases formed alongside the planet or were released from it, they were already moving at that speed. In space, there’s no friction to brush the atmosphere away.

While gravity holds the air down, the magnetosphere protects it from being stripped away by the solar wind, a stream of charged particles from the sun that could otherwise blow the atmosphere away.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

How is India tackling mental health crisis?

What has the Budget allocated for mental health institutions? Will it be enough to tackle an emergency?

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

The story so far:

Last month, the Economic Survey flagged the alarming rise of digital addiction and screen-related mental health problems, particularly among children and adolescents. On February 1, the Budget announced measures to strengthen mental health infrastructure. Key highlights include the proposed establishment of a second National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in north India and the upgradation of premier institutions in Ranchi and Tezpur to improve regional access.

What is India's mental health burden?

According to experts, India is facing a mental health emergency. It accounts for nearly one-third of the world's suicides, depression and addiction cases. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among Indians aged 15-29, data from the National Crime Records Bureau and the Sample Registration System under the Ministry of Home Affairs show. According to the WHO, between 2012 and 2030, the economic loss due to mental health conditions in India is estimated to be $1.03 trillion. Around 70% to 92% of people with mental disorders do not receive proper treatment due to lack of awareness, stigma, and shortage of professionals. According to the Indian Journal of Psychiatry, India has 0.75 psychiatrists per 1,00,000 people, whereas the WHO recommends at least three per 1,00,000.

> The need of the hour is affordable access, continuity of care, and timely treatment, which remain elusive

While health spends may have increased since FY2014-15, specific allocations for mental health services have historically been small, around 1% of the total health budget.

Does India have enough hospitals?

To cater to the growing need for quality mental health services, the Central government has integrated mental health services in Ayushman Bharat calling them Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs). Under Ayushman Bharat, the government has upgraded more than 1.73 lakh sub-health centres and primary health centres to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Also, mental health services have been added in the package of services under comprehensive primary health care provided at these centres. Over the past two years, the government has also expanded its manpower base, sanctioning over 20 centres of excellence to train more postgraduate students in mental health and provide advanced treatment. In all, 47 PG departments on mental health have been established.

Moreover, Tele MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) is a 24x7, free initiative in India providing mental health support via toll-free helplines 14416 or 1-800-891-4416. Launched on October 10, 2022, it features 53 operational cells across 36 States/UTs, supported by 23 specialised mentoring institutes.

Where is the shortfall?

Over the past five years, India's mental health allocation has increased from ₹683 crore in 2020-21 to about ₹1,898 crore in 2024-25. While this rise is often cited as progress, it remains shockingly low in context, says Neha Kirpal, co-founder of Amaha and founding cohort member of the India Mental Health Alliance (IMHA), a network of stakeholders working on mental health issues. She adds that the budget allocation is less than 2% of the total health budget, which itself accounts for only around 2% of the national GDP. This underinvestment is stark when weighed against impact. Explaining why targeted allocation to grassroots mental health programmes is a must, she notes that even in this Budget a significant share of allocations continue to flow toward tertiary institutions such as NIMHANS and new centres of excellence. "This alone cannot mainstream mental healthcare in a country of India's scale," she explains. The other issue is about the utilisation of funds. Experts point out that funds allocated may be low, but even these are not completely utilised at the national level. Health experts argue that for funds to be better utilised, India's budgetary allocations for mental health must support community-based, early-intervention models.

What is the way ahead?

The need of the hour is affordable access, continuity of care, and timely treatment, which remain elusive, leading to preventable loss of life and years lived with disability. "Our focus remains on specialist-led, tertiary care, which takes a curative rather than preventive approach. Our response capacity is severely limited. There is a huge shortage of trained mental health professionals to deal with mental illness. This has led to a 95% gap in access to mental health care," says Ms. Kirpal.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry says it is laying emphasis on a "whole-of-community" approach, integrating mental well-being into school curricula, and strengthening workplace policies to address stress and burnout.

Why has AYUSH got a major push in Budget?

What are the proposals to make AYUSH more widely accessible? Which are some of the key institutes and autonomous bodies under the AYUSH sector? How has the free trade agreement with the European Union opened the door for AYUSH in European markets?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

On February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed a slew of resources for AYUSH in the 2026-27 Union Budget. A week earlier, India's new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union opened the door for Indian doctors and products to enter the European market more easily.

What has AYUSH received in the Budget?

In the 2026-27 Budget, its total allocation reached ₹4,408 crore, up from ₹3,992 crore in 2025-26 and ₹2,122 crore in 2020-21. Ms. Sitharaman also announced plans to set up three new All-India Institutes of Ayurveda intended to be the gold standard for traditional medicine, similar to how AIIMS works for allopathic medicine. These institutes will treat patients, conduct high-level research, and teach. The Budget also pitched for funds to upgrade the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar, with the aim of India leading the way in setting standards for how traditional medicine should be practised and documented worldwide. The budget for the National AYUSH Mission has been hiked by 66% to ₹1,300 crore, to modernise local AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries, to place AYUSH clinics inside existing modern hospitals, and to upgrade existing centres to focus on preventive health. The Budget also provides funds to upgrade AYUSH pharmacies and drug-testing laboratories. The government is also introducing a multilingual AI assistant named Bharat-VISTAAR, designed to give farmers who grow medicinal plants real-time advice on growing herbs of better quality, current market prices, and certifying crops for export.

> The presence of heavy metals such as lead and mercury in certain AYUSH products is a major worry

Massive boost: Plants and pulses used in Ayurveda displayed during the AYUSH Habba in Mangaluru on January 31. H.S. MANJUNATH

What does the India-EU FTA do for AYUSH?

In the past, Indian Ayurvedic doctors have had a hard time working in Europe because their degrees weren't recognised. But under the FTA, in EU countries that don't specifically regulate traditional medicine, Indian AYUSH practitioners can provide their services using qualifications obtained in India. The deal also gives Indian companies a legal guarantee to open wellness centres, Ayurvedic clinics, etc. across the bloc's 27 countries without them having to worry that the laws will suddenly change and shut them down. Third, India and the EU will work together to recognise (some of) each other's lab results and safety certifications. As a result, a particular Ayurvedic supplement tested in an Indian lab will likely be accepted by European customs. Finally, the FTA recognises India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library, a database of formulations, thus preventing companies from wrongly claiming ownership of traditional Indian remedies.

What resources does AYUSH have?

India's AYUSH sector has a network of hospitals, research councils, and regulatory frameworks. In 2024-25, the government's support for the AYUSH Ministry was designed to integrate traditional medicine into the broader national healthcare landscape. The primary vehicle was the National AYUSH Mission and co-location the primary policy (that is, placing AYUSH facilities within existing primary and community health centres and district hospitals).

The sector has several 'Institutes of National Importance' and autonomous bodies, including an All-India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi and the National Institute of Homoeopathy in Kolkata. Other specialised institutions provide training and care in Siddha, Unani, Yoga, and naturopathy. The government also manages several research councils, such as the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences. The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine and the National Commission for Homoeopathy have to ensure medical education remains affordable and reliable. The Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy sets the official standards for all Indian AYUSH drugs. The National Medicinal Plants Board worked with 32 State boards to encourage the cultivation of high-quality herbs for both domestic use and export. The 'AYURGYAN' scheme promotes education while 'Ayurswasthay Yojana' focuses on using traditional medicine to meet community health goals.

Is AYUSH treatment scientific?

Critics led by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) have argued that traditional systems like Ayurveda often lack the rigorous, empirical evidence required to meet the thresholds of modern medicine. Allopathic drugs must clear randomised controlled trials that test their safety and efficacy. Many AYUSH treatments, however, are based on ancient texts and observational history, and either haven't been tested or their specifics remain unverifiable. The presence of heavy metals such as lead and mercury in certain AYUSH products has been a major concern. Health advisories from Australia, the U.S., and New Zealand have highlighted cases of lead poisoning linked to imported Ayurvedic products. Perhaps the most controversial aspect of AYUSH has been "mixopathy", the state-sanctioned blurring of lines between traditional and modern medical practice. In 2020, the Central Council of Indian Medicine authorised postgraduate Ayurveda students to be trained in 58 surgical procedures, including general surgery. The IMA called this "legalised quackery", arguing that surgery is a complex discipline requiring deep knowledge of anatomy, anaesthesia, and perioperative care that AYUSH curricula don't sufficiently cover. The controversy intensified in 2025 when the Andhra Pradesh government allowed Ayurveda exponents to perform these surgeries independently, leading to nationwide protests and legal challenges currently pending before the Supreme Court. Friction also persists over the practice of AYUSH doctors prescribing allopathic medicines like antibiotics or steroids. Some States have issued executive orders allowing this to plug the doctor shortage in rural areas but the medical community has warned that it could lead to irrational drug use and worsen antibiotic resistance.

What do the resources mean for AYUSH?

A smattering of independent estimates suggests that the AYUSH sector will be worth $26.5 billion (₹2.3 lakh crore) in 2026, with startups and MSMEs accounting for 80%. The new plans are in line with the government's attempts to turn AYUSH from a domestic, welfare-adjacent public health programme to a regulated industry and source of economic growth. The proposed All-India Institutes are modelled on AIIMS and, together with plans to upgrade testing facilities and pharmacies, signal efforts to recast parts of traditional medicine as being scientific rather than based on lineage or experiences.

That said, while global markets may reward standardisation, they will also raise expectations of evidence and accountability at home. In this sense the government's AYUSH push may also subject the sector to a level of scrutiny and institutional discipline that India itself has only partially enforced thus far.

Why is Dreamliner's fuel system under watch?

What happened on a recent Air India flight? Why are certain fuel control switches malfunctioning? Weren't precautionary checks undertaken after the Ahmedabad mishap in June last year? What is the risk it poses to the engine when switches are faulty?

Murali N. Krishnaswamy

The story so far:

On February 1, 2026, an Air India flight (AI 132) scheduled from London Heathrow to Bengaluru was preparing for departure when the crew reported that one of the two fuel control switches on the Boeing 787-8 had moved to 'Cutoff'. The incident came under intense scrutiny as the fuel switches and their functioning are a key part of the ongoing investigation into the June 12, 2025 crash of Air India flight 171 (Ahmedabad-London Gatwick), also a Boeing 787-8.

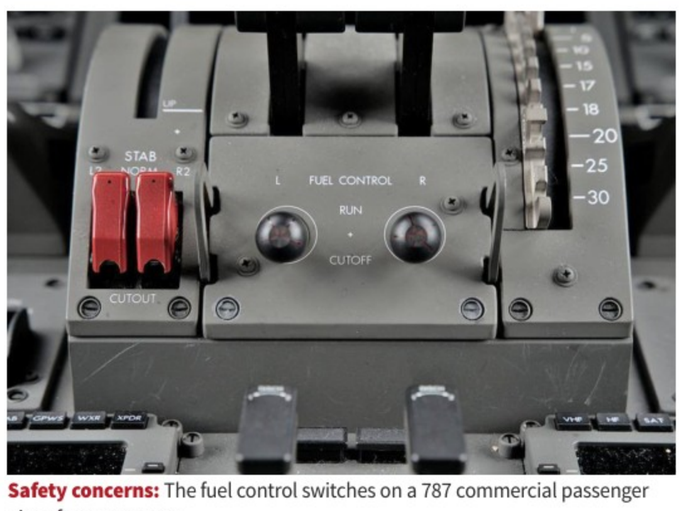
What happened next?

As the left fuel control switch "slipped from Run to Cutoff", the crew is said to have checked the switches by touching them. It was only in the third attempt that the switch remained in the 'Run' position. The crew decided to continue with the flight – a distance of about 8,000-plus kilometres – with no further incident.

How was the incident reported?

The Safety Matters Foundation, a non-profit and independent aviation safety think tank in India, put out a note that called for a "transparent investigation after this new fuel system incident". It said that the incident was "alarming as it mirrors a known risk previously identified by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration". It highlighted how, "in 2018, the FAA had issued a Safety Alert For Operators SAIB NM-18-33, warning that certain fuel control switches, including those on Boeing 787s, could malfunction in this exact manner, increasing the risk of accidental engine shutdown." The Foundation said that "the incident was troubling as the airline had said that it had conducted precautionary checks across its 787 fleet and found no issues". India's regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), came into the picture after the incident was reported. In a note titled, "Rejoinder on News Item relating to purported malfunction of Fuel Cut Off Switch on M/s Air India Boeing B787-8 aircraft", the DGCA gave a detailed, technical account of the incident: "...the switch did not remain positively latched in the 'Run' position when light vertical pressure was applied but latched correctly in 'Run' and was stable during the third attempt." The note also said that the crew had "physically verified that the switch was fully and positively latched in the 'Run' position", adding that "no abnormal engine parameters, cautions, warnings, or related system messages were observed during engine start or at any time thereafter". The note went on to say that "the operating crew member was briefed on the observation, unnecessary contact with the switch was avoided, and engine indications and alerting systems were closely monitored during the full flight".

> Boeing says it is in touch with Air India and supports their review of the incident



Safety concerns: The fuel control switches on a 787 commercial passenger aircraft. GETTY IMAGES

The crew reported the incident in the pilot defect report after which the airline reached out to the manufacturer, Boeing, for guidance. The DGCA note also said that Boeing had recommended checks on the switches. The airline's engineering department found both switches to be functioning satisfactorily. The DGCA said that the inspections were done in the presence of DGCA officers, and Air India was advised to "circulate the Boeing recommended procedure for the operation of Fuel Cut Off switch to its crew members".

The aircraft was initially grounded in Bengaluru but was cleared for operations later. It left for Delhi on February 5.

What have the other responses been?

In response to a query by *The Hindu*, a statement by an Air India spokesperson said, "Following the DGCA closure on the matter, Air India will be following its safety investigation protocol and take appropriate action. We will fully adhere to the regulator's guidance to circulate OEM [original equipment manufacturer]-recommended operating procedures for the operation of the FCS [fuel control switch] to all crew members." The airline is said to have inspected its Boeing 787 fleet once again. It operates 26 Boeing 787-8s and seven 787-9s (the newest jet was inducted in January 2026). IndiGo too has six leased Boeing 787-9s (from Norse Atlantic Airways). Boeing, in a statement to *The Hindu*, said, "We are in contact with Air India and are supporting their review of this matter." In response to an e-mail/telephonic call by *The Hindu*, a spokesperson for the Air Accidents Investigation Branch-U.K., said: "We are aware of reports in the media about an event on a flight between London Heathrow and Bangalore on 2 February. We are engaged with the UK Regulatory Authority who we understand is working to establish the facts."

In a comment to *The Hindu* on fuel switches, Professor David Cirulli, UAS Department of Flight, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Asia Academics, Worldwide Campus, said that "aircraft flight decks have evolved over many years of operational experiences with a focus on safety. The industry thrives on creating the best and safest means of transportation". He pointed out that one item of focus is the human factor. "This study and area of expertise covers a broad range of items, but one in particular is the human-to-machine interface. Fuel flow to the engines is a safety critical issue. Inadvertent engagement or disengagement are both drastically important for numerous reasons. Overtime, the industry – both regulatory and operational safety – recognised the necessity to ensure that inadvertent operations do not occur. It is for this reason that these switches require multiple movements (pull/twist) with a locking mechanism to reach the engaged or disengaged states. The fundamental designs of these switches remain the same over most aircraft and fleets, with solid operational performance. The reliability of the system, for this reason, is very high," he said.

PROFILES

The diplomat on a tightrope

Abbas Araghchi

Iran's Foreign Minister faces the daunting task of finding a diplomatic way out of tensions with the U.S. without compromising key national security interests at a time when the economy struggles and internal tensions remain high after the January crackdown

Stanly Johny

Seyed Abbas Araghchi may have one of the most difficult diplomatic jobs in the world today. His country just experienced its worst internal crisis in over four decades. Massive protests and armed unrest erupted across different parts of Iran in the first week of January, which were violently put down by security forces. At least 3,000 people were killed, according to official figures. The U.S. has sent what President Donald Trump calls "a massive armada" towards Iran. Mr. Trump had earlier said the U.S. was "locked and loaded" to respond if Iran killed protesters. While the risk of military escalation remains high, the U.S. has also opened a direct diplomatic channel. "Time is running out for Iran" to make a nuclear deal, Mr. Trump said on January 28.

Mr. Araghchi responded in kind. Iran was "ready for a fair and equitable deal", he said the next day, "but not for coercion". He added that Iran's armed forces "are prepared – with their fingers on the trigger – to immediately and powerfully respond to any aggression".

Iran is internally tense. It faces the threat of external attack. It is under heavy Western sanctions, and its economy is in serious trouble. An all-out war could be catastrophic. But Iran also doesn't want to show signs of weakness. It doesn't want to be another Iraq, Libya, Syria or even Venezuela. So the job before Mr. Araghchi is to seek the path of diplomacy without compromising key security interests, with one finger on the trigger.

On February 6, he went to Muscat, the Omani capital, to hold indirect talks with Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump's special envoy, and other officials. There was no breakthrough, but they agreed to meet again. The clouds of war have not lifted. But there seems to be a small window to continue the diplomatic engagement which has reduced the risk of an imminent military conflict.

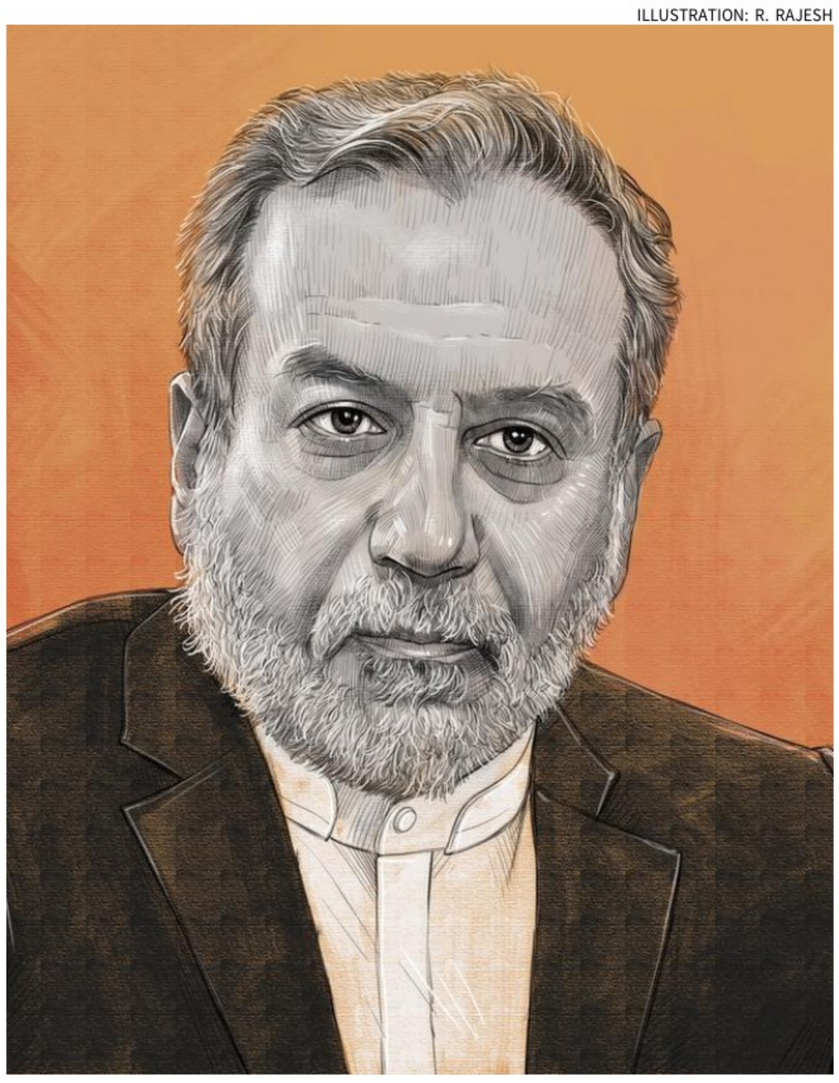
Born in 1962 in the Shah's Tehran, Abbas Araghchi came of age during the tumultuous period of the Islamic Revolution. He earned an undergraduate degree from the Foreign Ministry's School of International Relations and a master's in political science from the Islamic Azad University in Tehran. Mr. Araghchi, who is fluent in Persian, Arabic and English, did his PhD at the University of Kent under the supervision of Professor David McLellan, an English scholar of Marxism. Mr. Araghchi's thesis, titled 'The Evolution of the Concept of Political Participation in Twentieth-Century Islamic Political Thought', argues that modern Islamic political thought has sought to reconcile the absolute sovereignty of God with popular sovereignty, integrating elements of Western democracy with Islamic principles, according to a report by the Stimson Center.

Reformist promise

Mr. Araghchi rose quickly through the ranks of Iran's foreign policy establishment. He started as an international relations expert at the Foreign Ministry in 1988, the year the Iran-Iraq war came to a close. His first major posting came in 1992, when he was appointed as a deputy ambassador to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. In 1999, when reformist Mohammad Khatami was the President, Mr. Araghchi became Iran's ambassador in Finland. In 2007-2011, he also served as Iran's ambassador in Japan, before serving as a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry. But the real turning point in his career came in 2013 when he was appointed by President Hassan Rouhani as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Legal and International Affairs.

Mr. Rouhani, a moderate cleric who assumed the presidency after the chaotic years of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, had promised to rewrite Iran's relations with the world and improve the country's economic situation. He found a willing partner in U.S. President Barack Obama. Both sides started direct negotiations which culminated in the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Under the agreement, Iran promised to curtail its nuclear programme, in return for the lifting of international sanctions. Mr. Araghchi, as a deputy of the then-Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, acted as the chief negotiator during the month-long discussions. The nuclear deal was seen as a major breakthrough for both the Obama administration as well as Iran's rulers. Sanctions were lifted and Iran was allowed to trade freely and invite investments. But in May 2018, President Donald Trump, who was in his first term, unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the agreement and reimposed sanctions on Iran.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



Mr. Trump called the JCPOA "the worst deal" in America's history. He adopted what he called a "maximum pressure" policy aimed at forcing Iran back to the table. Iran's moderates felt betrayed. When Mr. Trump tore apart the deal, Tehran was fully compliant with the terms of the agreement, as per the IAEA. "We proved that diplomacy can resolve the most complex disputes. We showed that mutual respect and adherence to international law can create breakthroughs," Mr. Araghchi once said about the nuclear deal. "We negotiated in good faith and we were met with bad faith," he added, referring to the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement.

When Ebrahim Raisi, a hardliner, succeeded Mr. Rouhani as Iran's President, Mr. Araghchi was replaced by Ali Bagheri as the country's chief nuclear negotiator. The U.S., then led by Joe Biden, and Iran had held multiple rounds of indirect talks in Geneva aimed at reviving the nuclear deal, but failed to make any breakthrough. Mr. Raisi was killed in May 2024 in a helicopter crash.

12-day war

Masoud Pezeshkian, a doctor-turned-politician, won the election on a platform of reform. Mr. Pezeshkian picked Mr. Araghchi to head the Foreign Ministry. Soon after Mr. Trump began his second term in January 2025, Iran and the U.S. started negotiations over the country's nuclear programme. But those talks were undermined by Israel's June 13 bombing of Iran. The U.S. also joined the war, carrying out attacks at Iran's nuclear facilities, which Mr. Trump called a great success. Iran suspended the talks after the 12-day war, which ended in a ceasefire, and froze cooperation with the IAEA, effectively blocking any international monitoring of its nuclear programme. But within months, the Iran crisis would flare up again with street protests challenging Iran's clerical rule and U.S. and Israel openly supporting the protesters.

Before the Muscat talks began, it was clear that the U.S. and Iran remained far apart even on the format of the negotiations. Mr. Araghchi had repeatedly said the discussions would focus solely on Iran's nuclear programme. But the U.S. State Department stated that it wanted Iran's ballistic missile programme and its support for regional militia groups to be included on the agenda. While it remains unclear what exactly was discussed on February 6, the divergence itself underscores the scale of the challenge before Mr. Araghchi.

In his PhD thesis, he wrote about reconciling Western democracy with Islamic principles. Now, as Foreign Minister, at a time of acute crisis for his country, Mr. Araghchi has to balance a deeply hostile and militarised America's maximalist demands with his clerical government's security concerns and core national interests. A formidable task indeed.

THE GIST

- Abbas Araghchi, as a Deputy Foreign Minister, acted as the chief negotiator during the month-long nuclear talks of 2013-15 which culminated in the JCPOA
- When Ebrahim Raisi, a hardliner, became President, Araghchi was replaced by Ali Bagheri as the country's chief nuclear negotiator
- Masoud Pezeshkian, a doctor-turned-politician who won the election on a reformist platform, appointed Araghchi as the Foreign Minister and gave him the mandate of talks

The anti-immigration czar

Stephen Miller

The U.S. Homeland Security Adviser has shaped President Donald Trump's most inflammatory immigration initiatives

Sruthi Darbhamulla

The Trump administration's hardline immigration stance has been acquiring vociferous detractors, even from Republicans, particularly after two U.S. citizens, Renée Good and Alex Pretti, were shot dead by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in Minneapolis, Minnesota, enforcement operations earlier this year.

Soon after the shooting of Pretti, Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff for policy and homeland security in the Trump administration, posted on X that the nurse was a "domestic terrorist" who had "tried to assassinate federal law enforcement" agents.

Mr. Miller's right-wing positions crystallised early on. Born in Santa Monica, California, in 1985 to Jewish liberal refugee parents, he attended a diverse high school that he came to view as too liberal. A report suggested that his transformation as a hardline conservative was influenced by the book *Guns, Crime, and Freedom* (1994), written by Wayne LaPierre, a gun rights lobbyist and former chief of the National Rifles Association (NRA).

As a political science student at Duke University, he continued his conservative advocacy through speeches and articles, writing a column titled 'Miller Time' for *The Chronicle*, the school's newspaper, and serving as the first national coordinator of the David Horowitz Freedom Centre's Terrorism Awareness Project.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

After his graduation in 2007, Mr. Miller dove into Republican politics. He was tapped as press secretary for Rep. Michele Bachmann from Minnesota, and then as Communications director for Rep. John Shadegg of Arizona. He later started working for Senator Jeff Sessions from Alabama, a staunch anti-immigration advocate, later becoming his chief of communications.

Mr. Miller helped Mr. Sessions sharpen his immigration stance. In 2013, he helped craft an effort to prevent the passage of a 2013 Bill, mooted by a bipartisan group of Senators called 'Gang of 8', which was proposing a way for undocumented immigrants to gain legal residency. Steve Bannon likened Mr. Miller's opposition to the Bill to "the civil-rights movement in the 1960," and his efforts proved fruitful after the Bill, which passed in the Senate, was not brought to vote in the House.

Trump's adviser

As Donald Trump prepared to run for President in 2016, Mr. Miller joined his campaign as a policy adviser, later becoming his speechwriter. Post his victory, Mr. Miller joined the administration as a senior policy adviser, focusing on immigration.

He led advocacy for the zero-tolerance policy at the Southern Border, widely characterised by critics as a family separation policy where children were taken from parents who crossed illegally over the U.S-Mexico border. Mr. Miller also supported the so-called Muslim ban, where entry from seven Muslim-majority countries was banned. After Mr. Trump's failed re-election bid in 2020, Mr. Miller echoed claims that the election was stolen.

In Mr. Trump's second administration, Mr. Miller took up roles as deputy chief of staff for policy and as homeland security adviser, which didn't require Senate confirmation.

Since then, he has furthered Mr. Trump's campaign promise to carry out mass deportations of undocumented immigrants. He has frequently stressed the goal of one million deportations in the first year, telling ICE agents in May 2025 that he wanted 3,000 immigration arrests a day.

He has also been credited with increasing coordination with law enforcement and FBI for the anti-immigration effort. Further, Mr. Miller reportedly came up with the plan to deport migrants to an El Salvador prison using the wartime Alien Enemies Act.

Lately Mr. Miller has expanded his focus beyond immigration to foreign policy, spearheading the policy to strike Venezuelan drug boats in the Caribbean, and supporting the seizure of Greenland. As Mr. Trump seems determined to continue with his hardline anti-immigration agenda, Mr. Miller remains the main driving force of the policy.

Crisis-time CM

Yumnam Khemchand Singh

The new BJP Chief Minister of Manipur has to take measures to heal the ethnic wounds while navigating administrative challenges

Vijaita Singh

On February 4, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, 62, who studied up to Class X and is a martial arts expert, was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur, a State reeling from an ethnic crisis between the majority Meitei and the tribal Kuki-Zo people since May 3, 2023.

Mr. Singh, a two-time MLA from the Singjamei constituency and a former Speaker of the Assembly, was chosen to lead the State by the central BJP leadership, days ahead of the one-year tenure of the President's Rule, which was to come to an end on February 13.

Any extension of the President's Rule beyond this would have required the Union government to move a constitutional amendment Bill in Parliament, not preferable to the central leadership as it would have left the floor open for the Opposition to criticise the government.

Said to have the backing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Mr. Singh's perceived inclination to be on the same page as the Centre helped his case. Though the Home Portfolio is with Cabinet Minister Govindas Konthoujam, by choosing Mr. Singh, the BJP also wants to ensure that the gains made on the law and order front in the past one year – no major violent incidents, arrest of hundreds of extortionists and underground cadres – are not reversed.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Before winning the Singjamei seat on a BJP ticket in 2017, Mr. Singh taught taekwondo, a Korean martial art, to children. But this was not his first attempt at electoral politics. In 2012, he contested the Assembly elections on a Trinamool Congress ticket and lost by a margin of 157 votes to the Congress candidate Hemochandra Singh.

Clean image

His clean image when it came to matters of law was also a factor. The affidavit that he filed during the 2022 Assembly elections from Singjamei shows that he has no past or pending criminal case against him.

That the Centre, through Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, will continue to keep an upper hand on critical governance and law and order issues is not lost on all. It was reflected in the way Mr. Singh was selected. All the BJP legislators, including Mr. Singh, were called to Delhi, where the decision was sealed and announced to the waiting MLAs. Interestingly, former CM N. Biren Singh, whose resignation on February 9 triggered a political crisis in the State, leading to the imposition of President's Rule, was the one who proposed his name for the Chief Minister's post.

In fact, the new Chief Minister has been a vocal critic of Biren Singh and in one of the meetings at the latter's house in 2024, he had urged him to step down. On February 3, 2025, days before President's Rule was imposed, he came to Delhi and told the BJP leadership that the government would collapse if Biren Singh was not removed.

Popular in his constituency, Mr. Singh also became the first Meitei MLA to reach out to the Kuki-Zo community, since violence erupted in the State in 2023. On December 8, in an unprecedented turn of events, Mr. Singh visited two Kuki-Zo villages and a relief camp to extend solidarity with the displaced people and those affected by violence. The choice of villages was also symbolic – both villages are located in Naga dominated districts of Kamjong and Ukhrul. Though his visit was criticised by the Kuki-Zo civil society groups, Mr. Singh said: "We, the elders, may have our differences, but we should not allow this conflict to affect the future of our children."

How Mr. Singh navigates governance issues with his two deputies – Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki Zo and Losii Dikho from Naga People's Front (NPF), an alliance partner of the BJP – will be keenly watched in the days to come. Ms. Kipgen did not travel to Imphal to take the oath, instead she was sworn in virtually from Manipur Bhavan in Delhi and her appointment had led to widespread protests in Kuki-Zo areas with civil society groups demanding a resolution of their political demands before an MLA from the community provides legitimacy to the government.

With a year to go for the next elections, due in February 2027, Mr. Singh has his task cut out.

CAIRO

Drone attack by RSF in Sudan kills 24, including eight children

REUTERS

A drone attack by the Rapid Support Forces hit a vehicle carrying displaced families in central Sudan's North Kordofan province on Saturday, killing at least 24 people, including eight children, a doctors' group said, a day after a World Food Program aid convoy was targeted. Several others were wounded. AP

ABUJA

Two attacks in a few days leave 30 dead in Nigeria's Benue state

AP

Two attacks in the space of a few days left 30 people dead in two neighbouring towns in Nigeria's central state of Benue, long prone to inter-communal clashes. The region has seen an upsurge of violence in recent months between Muslim ethnic Fulani herders and mainly Christian farmers over control of land and resources. AFP

CARACAS

Venezuela Parliament chief vows quick release of political prisoners

AFP

Venezuela's head of Parliament, Jorge Rodriguez, on Friday promised the speedy release of remaining political prisoners during a meeting with their relatives in which he promised to correct the government's "mistakes". The meeting came a day after National Assembly gave their initial backing to a draft amnesty Bill. AFP

WASHINGTON

Pentagon to cut academic ties with Harvard amid 'woke' ideology claims

AP

The Pentagon is to cut all academic ties with Harvard University, ending military education, fellowships and certificate programs, it said in a statement on Friday. The move is the latest in the Trump administration's battle with Harvard over claims that the Ivy League institution promotes "woke" ideology. AFP

Iran, U.S. agree to hold next round of talks soon: Araghchi

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's Foreign Minister said a fresh round of talks with Washington would take place "soon", while insisting that enrichment was Tehran's "inalienable right" and building trust would take time.

Abbas Araghchi said the first round of talks in Oman on Friday had been a "good start". "(Nuclear) Enrichment is our inalienable right and must continue. Even with bombing they could not destroy our capabilities," he said.

"The Iranian nuclear case will only be resolved through negotiations."

Mr. Araghchi's remarks came a day after renewed nuclear talks in Muscat with Washington.

Islamic State affiliate claims Pakistan suicide bombing

The group, Islamic State Pakistan, said the attacker opened fire on security guards who tried to stop him at the main gate and detonated his explosive vest after reaching the mosque's inner gate

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

An affiliate of the Islamic State group claimed responsibility overnight for a deadly suicide bombing inside a Shia mosque on the outskirts of Pakistan's capital that killed 31 people and wounded 169 others, as mourners gathered on Saturday under tight security at the same mosque for funerals for the victims.

Authorities said police have arrested two men and a woman in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Peshawar linked to the attack.

According to investigation officials, an identity card recovered from them helped establish the attacker's identity as Yasir, who lived in Peshawar.

The regional Islamic State affiliate, known as Islamic State in Pakistan, claimed responsibility in a statement posted on its Amaq News Agency. It said the attacker opened fire on security guards who tried to stop him at the main gate and detonated his explosive vest after reaching the mosque's inner gate.

Deadly detonation: People attend a funeral for victims of the suicide blast at a Shia mosque in Islamabad, on Saturday. REUTERS

The Islamic State group suggested it viewed the Pakistani Shias as legitimate targets, calling them a "human reservoir" that provided recruits to Shia militias fighting the Islamic State in Syria.

Investigators have also revealed that prior to the Islamabad suicide bombing, the attacker had remained in Afghanistan for approximately five months where he allegedly received formal training in weapons handling and suicide attacks.

(With PTI inputs)

'U.S. gave Ukraine, Russia a June deadline to reach deal'

Associated Press
KYIV

The U.S. has given Ukraine and Russia a June deadline to reach a deal to end the nearly four year war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told presspersons, as Russian strikes on energy infrastructure forced nuclear power plants to cut output on Saturday.

If the June deadline is not met, the Trump administration will likely put pressure on both sides to meet it, he added.

"The Americans are proposing the parties end the war by the beginning of this summer and will probably put pressure on the parties precisely according to this schedule," Mr. Zelenskyy said, speaking to presspersons on Friday.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Mr. Zelenskyy's comments were embargoed until Saturday morning.

"And they say that they want to do everything by June. And they will do everything to end the war. And they want a clear schedule of all events," he said.

He said the U.S. proposed holding the next round of trilateral talks next week in their country for the first time, likely in Miami, Mr. Zelenskyy said. "We confirmed our participation," he added.

Mr. Zelenskyy said Russia presented the U.S. with a $12 trillion economic proposal – which he dubbed the "Dmitriev package" after Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev. Bilateral economic deals with the U.S. form part of the broader negotiating process.

Russian strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure continued with over 400 drones and about 40 missiles launched overnight Saturday, Mr. Zelenskyy said in a post on X. Targets included the energy grid, generation facilities and distribution networks.

Ukrenergo, the state energy transmission operator, said the attack was the second mass strike on energy infrastructure since the start of the year.

As Bangladesh gears up for election, minority communities seek security

Rabiul Alam
DHAKA

Pranto Das Gupta, a 22-year-old from Bangladesh's minority Hindu community, is preparing to cast his first vote in the coming national elections. Living in Dhaka, around 300 km from his ancestral village in Satkania, Chattogram, Mr. Gupta plans to travel home to vote with his family on February 12.

For the first-time voter, the lofty promises in party manifestos from economic prosperity to constitutional reforms ring hollow against the lived reality of arson attacks, vandalism and intimidation. "We don't want clashes. We don't want promises. All we ask for is safety," Mr. Gupta said. "People in my village will go to the polling centres and vote for whoever they think can ensure their safety."

This plea for basic security has emerged as the overwhelming, non-partisan demand of religious minorities, who make up roughly 10% of the population.

According to a recent report by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), at least 56 targeted attacks on minority communities were recorded in the 17 months leading up to the election. These incidents included the desecration of temples, vandalism of homes, and physical assaults, leaving one person dead and 27 injured. Transparency International Bangladesh reported more than 50 such attacks in 2025, while Ain-e-Salish Kendra documented 42 incidents.

The Office of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, however, has offered a different assessment. Of the 645 incidents involving minority community members recorded in 2025, only 71 were communal in nature, while the rest were linked to general criminal activity, it said.

Campaign banners of candidates hang over the streets ahead of the national election in Dhaka on Saturday. REUTERS

Despite the official reassurances, fear remains pervasive. "Only a few people from our community are involved in politics," said Raghupati Sen, a trustee of a local ashram in Old Dhaka's Tikatuli area. "Politicians come asking for votes, but who comes to protect our homes and temples when attacks happen?" He added: "For us, the election is not about who wins. It is about whether we will lose whatever security we still have."

Persistent anxiety

This election cycle has been especially tense. While clashes between the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami dominate headlines, minorities describe a quieter but persistent anxiety. Major political blocs have made rhetorical overtures: the BNP's manifesto promises minority protection, while the Jamaat alliance speaks of building a "humane Bangladesh." Yet, critics said these parties, now locked in fierce rivalry, also have a past where communal rhetoric was weaponised, and their ground-level activists were often implicated in localised intimidation.

Following the August 2024 uprising that toppled the Sheikh Hasina government, organised mobs targeted Hindu neighbourhoods in several parts of the country. The community has long been perceived as supportive of the Awami League, Ms. Hasina's party. The Awami League has been barred from contesting this election, yet minority voters say their participation remains important.

"Minorities have always been victims of violence in Bangladesh," said Abhi Chowdhury Partho, a college teacher in Dhaka. "Even during Sheikh Hasina's rule, we saw attacks during festivals. Fear did not disappear then, and it has not disappeared now."

He said this persistent insecurity is shaping voting behaviour. In many minority-dominated areas, there is a discussion of "strategic voting", choosing candidates perceived as less likely to provoke violence rather than those offering ambitious promises.

A recent report by the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC) said communal violence continues in the country. Based on data collected up to January 27, 2026, the council recorded 42 incidents, including murder, sexual violence and attacks on temples.

Monindra Kumar Nath, acting general secretary of the BHBCUC, said fear continues to dominate minority communities' psyche as the 13th parliamentary election approaches. "Across the country, religious and ethnic minorities especially women and young people are living in constant anxiety," he said.

Secure environment

Last week, the council placed eight demands before the authorities, urging the EC to ensure a level-playing field and a secure environment so minority voters and candidates can participate without obstruction.

Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmanel Masud on February 6 called on members of minority communities to go to polling centres without fear. He said the Election Commission had made full security arrangements for them and all preparations are in place to hold a free and fair election.

In total, 79 candidates from religious and ethnic minority communities are contesting the election, 67 party nominees and 12 independents. The Communist Party of Bangladesh has fielded the highest number (17), followed by the BNP with six, while Jamaat-e-Islami has nominated a minority candidate for the first time. Ten of the candidates are women.

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